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PART LVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

105

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Kirby Green ..	345	Nov. 19, 1880	Dulcigno. Transmits despatch from Mr. Summa relating to efforts made by Dervish Pasha to induce Albanians to consent to surrender of	1
2	„ „ ..	346	25,	Dulcigno. Proceedings of Dervish Pasha. Continued resistance of Albanians. Views of Porte respecting Albanian League	2
3	„ „ ..	347	25,	Objection of Roman Catholic tribesmen of Hotti to withdrawal of Mussulmans of Scutari	2
4	Mr. Goschen ..	610	26,	Bulgaria and XIth Article of Berlin Treaty. Asks for instructions as to communicating Mr. Lascelles' No. 163 of the 30th ultimo to Porte	2
5	„ „ ..	613	26,	Dulcigno. Apparent certainty of cession. Inclosing copy of Proclamation issued by Dervish Pasha	3
6	„ „ ..	617	26,	Sale of Government lands in Epirus and Thessaly. Forwards information with regard to	4
7	Sir A. Paget ..	542	28,	Montenegrin frontier and instructions to Admirals. Incloses copy of memorandum left at Ministry for Foreign Affairs ..	4
8	„ „ ..	543	28,	Dulcigno frontier. Has acquainted M. Malvano with views of French Foreign Minister respecting delimitation of. (Reference to No. 542)	5
9	Mr. Corbett ..	60 Secret and Confidential Telegraphic	Dec. 1,	Greece. King's views as to advice of French Government and future intentions of Greece	5
10	To Captain Sale (also to Mr. Summa and Mr. Peacock)	46 Telegraphic	1,	Dervish Pasha's encounter with the Albanians. Asks for statistics of killed and wounded ..	6
11	To Mr. Goschen ..	804 Telegraphic	1,	Montenegrin frontier between sea and Lake Scutari. To endeavour to settle question before leaving Constantinople .. .	6
12	To Embassies, except Constantinople	Telegraphic	1,	Breaking up of naval demonstration. Propose to respective Governments to name place for ships to proceed to from Cattáro. Her Majesty's Government send ships to Malta .	6
13	To Lord Lyons ..	1522	1,	Breaking up of naval demonstration. Views of Her Majesty's Government as to destination of fleet	6
14	To Embassies, except Constantinople	..	1,	Breaking up of naval demonstration. Extends No. 12	7
15	To Admiralty ..	..	1,	Recommends that Admiral should be approved. Commends conduct of crews of Her Majesty's ships	7
16	Baron Haymerle to M. de Hengelmüller	Telegraphic	1,	Dulcigno territory. Views of Consul-General Lippich as to immediate delimitation of	7
17	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	Telegraphic	1,	Delimitation Commission. Ask Minister for Foreign Affairs to move Montenegrin Government to take steps for maintaining order on frontier pending .. .	8
18	Captain Sale ..	51 Telegraphic	1,	Reports arrival at Ragusa. Asks for precise definition of Dulcigno line ..	8
19	„ „ ..	52 Telegraphic	1,	Dervish Pasha's encounter with the Albanians. Gives statistics of killed and wounded ..	8
20	Mr. Goschen ..	372 Telegraphic	2,	Montenegro. Delimitation of frontier between sea and lake. Telegraph to Berlin and Paris to hasten instructions	8
21	To Embassies at Berlin and Paris	Telegraphic	2,	Repeats above, and asks that instructions may be given as requested	9

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
22	Sir A. Paget ..	156 Telegraphic	Dec. 2, 1880	Breaking up of naval demonstration. Instructions have been sent to Italian Admiral respecting	9
23	To Embassies, except Paris	Telegraphic	2,	Dulcigno territory. Baron Haymerle's statement as to views of Consul-General Lippich (see No. 16)	9
24	Sir H. Elliot ..	205 Telegraphic	2,	Montenegro. Settlement of Frontier question to be left to Ambassadors at Constantinople..	9
25	To Embassies, except Paris	..	2,	Frontier-line between sea and Lake Scutari. Her Majesty's Government are ready to instruct their Commissioner in same sense as Austro-Hungarian Commissioner.. ..	10
26	To Embassies at Paris and Berlin	..	2,	Montenegro. Extends No. 21	10
27	Mr. Corbett ..	359	Nov. 24,	Arrival of M. de Radowitz. Extender ..	10
28	„ „ ..	360	24,	Greek enthusiasts. Circular sent by Greek Government to Consuls to discourage ..	11
29	„ „ ..	361	24,	Meeting of Chambers. King's answer to Address	11
30	Mr. White.. ..	151	27,	Forwards copy of letter left by two Bulgarian Mussulmans	11
31	Admiralty	Confidential	Dec. 2,	Breaking up of naval demonstration. Admiral has been informed of the nature of instructions sent to Her Majesty's Representatives respecting	13
32	Lord Odo Russell ..	125 Telegraphic	3,	Separation of fleet. German Government agrees to proposal respecting	13
33	„ „ ..	126 Confidential Telegraphic	3,	Information respecting German ship "Victoria" from German Admiralty	13
34	„ „ ..	128 Telegraphic	3,	Immediate delimitation of Dulcigno frontier. Instructions will be sent to Count Hatzfeldt in sense proposed	14
35	Sir H. Elliot ..	206 Telegraphic	3,	Separation of fleet. Answer to his Lordship's proposal has been sent to Count Károlyi ..	14
36	Sir A. Paget ..	158 Telegraphic	3	Dulcigno frontier. Instructions will be sent to Count Corti in the same sense as to Mr. Goschen..	14
37	Captain Sale ..	53 Telegraphic	3,	Formal receipt for ceded districts not yet given to Turkish authorities	14
38	Lord Lyons ..	129 Telegraphic	3,	Separation of fleet. French Foreign Minister will reply as soon as possible respecting destination of French ships	14
39	„ „ ..	130 Telegraphic	3,	French ships go to Toulon	15
40	„ „ ..	131 Telegraphic	3,	Montenegro. Shall proposal be made to French Government in sense of telegram No. 852 of the 30th November to Sir H. Elliot ..	15
41	To Sir H. Elliot ..	861 Telegraphic	3,	Separation of fleet. Have Austrian Government given any information as to the destination of their fleet	15
42	„ „ ..	783	3,	Extends above	15
43	To Admiralty ..	..	3,	Separation of fleet. Forwards answer of German Government to Her Majesty's Government's proposal	15
44	„ „ ..	Confidential	3.	Movements of "Victoria." Transmits telegram from Lord Odo Russell respecting ..	16
45	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	13	Nov. 27,	Brigandage in districts of Zagori, Metzovo, and Conitza. Forwards despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting	16
46	Captain Sale ..	34	30.	Montenegro. Records movements of Dervish Pasha. Incloses copy of Convention of the 25th November	17
47	„ „ ..	35	30,	Montenegrin frontier. Suggestions as to demarcation of frontier	20
48	Lord Lyons ..	1110	Dec. 3,	Separation of fleet. Transmits copies of notes from M. Barthélemy respecting. Extends Nos. 38 and 39	21
49	„ „ ..	1112 Confidential	3,	Debates in Senate and Chamber on foreign affairs. Forwards authentic reports *in extenso*	22
50	Admiralty	Confidential	4.	Separation of fleet. Particulars respecting the same, and the German ship "Victoria" ..	23
51	„	Confidential	4,	Separation of fleet. Any objection to Sir B Seymour proceeding to Malta with ships? Transmits copy of telegram from Admiral ..	24

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
52	Sir H. Elliot .	207 Telegraphic	Dec. 4, 1880	Separation of fleet. Altered phrase in Austrian instructions	24
53	To Lord Lyons ..	662 Telegraphic	4,	Montenegro. May propose to French Government arrangements referred to in telegram No. 852 to Sir H. Elliot of the 30th November. Reply to No. 40 ..	25
54	To Embassies, except Paris	Telegraphic	4,	Separation of fleet. Instructions have been sent to Admiral Seymour .	25
55	Mr. Corbett ..	61 Telegraphic	4,	M. Coumoundouros' request for fleet to go to the Piræus	25
56	Mr. Plunkett ..	245 Telegraphic	4,	Destination of Russian ships. Information from M. de Giers respecting ..	25
57	„ „ .	246 Confidential Telegraphic	4,	Dulcigno cession. Satisfaction of M. de Giers at	25
58	„ „ ..	248 Telegraphic	4,	Dulcigno cession. M. de Giers has telegraphed to Russian Ambassador to agree with his colleagues respecting immediate delimitation of	26
59	To Lord Lyons ..	1532	4,	Montenegrin frontier. Communicate to French Government proposition for settlement of by Ambassadors .. .	26
60	To Admiralty ..	Confidential	4,	Separation of fleet. Lord Granville's opinion as to instructions to Admiral. Reply to No. 51 . .	26
61	Admiralty	Confidential	4,	Transmits copy from telegram to Sir Beauchamp Seymour	26
62	„	..	5,	Incloses copy of telegram from Sir Beauchamp Seymour reporting his intended departure from Cattaro . .	27
63	Vice-Consul Summa ..	Telegraphic	4,	Loss of Turkish troops in engagement with Albanians. Gives statistics .	27
64	Lord Lyons ...	132 Telegraphic	5,	Dulcigno frontier. French Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to French Ambassador in sense of telegram to Sir H. Elliot No. 852 of the 30th November (see No. 53)	27
65	Mr. Plunkett ..	563	Nov. 24,	Dulcigno. Conversation with Baron Jomini. Extender	28
66	„ „ ..	565	26,	Montenegro. Incloses note from Baron Jomini. Extender	28
67	„ „ ..	566	26,	Separation of fleet. Forwards further note from Baron Jomini ..	29
68	„ „ ..	568	27.	Separation of fleet. Conversation with Baron Jomini respecting arrangements for	30
69	„ „ ..	569	29,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Desirability of tracing it according to Anglo-Austrian line. Incloses note from Baron Jomini on the subject. Extender	31
70	„ „ ..	571	30,	Squadrons. General Chanzy's language respecting. Probably misunderstood by Baron Jomini. Extender	32
71	„ „ ..	575	Dec. 1,	Delimitation of Dulcigno frontier. Baron Jomini's views	32
72	Mr. Plunkett ..	578 Confidential	1,	Return of Emperor to St. Petersburgh. Events and rumours preceding	32
73	Mr. Goschen ..	620	Nov. 29,	Recruitment for Bulgarian army. Inclosing copy of despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk respecting	33
74	M. de Hengelmüller (communicated by Count Károlyi)	Confidential	Dec. 1,	Basis of M. de Hengelmüller's verbal communications to Lord Granville. Memorandum containing instructions	34
75	Mr. Goschen ..	376 Telegraphic	6,	Delimitation question has been brought before Ambassadors. Security of Commission. Porte is requested to instruct Dervish Pasha to take necessary precautions for	36
76	To Sir H. Elliot ..	785	6,	Eastern question. Interview with Count Károlyi respecting	36
77	Mr. Goschen ..	377 Telegraphic	7,	Delineation of frontier. Foreign Minister foresees no difficulties	37
78	Mr. Corbett ..	62 Telegraphic	7,	Russian squadron has gone to Naples ..	37
79	To Mr. Corbett ..	44 Telegraphic	7,	Intentions of Greece. Give all possible information respecting	37
80	To Captain Sale ..	49 Telegraphic	7,	Turco-Montenegrin boundary. Result of Mr. Goschen's negotiations with Ambassadors at Constantinople	37

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
81	To Sir H. Elliot ..	793	Dec. 7, 1880	Servian, Bulgarian and Roumanian frontiers. Approves language held to Baron Haymerle, as reported in No. 747 of the 21st ultimo ..	37
82	To Mr. Corbett ..	159 Secret and Confidential	7,	Extends No. 79	38
83	To Captain Sale ..	37	7,	Turco-Montenegrin boundary. Extends No. 80	38
84	Consul-General Blunt.	146	Nov. 28,	Outrages by brigands. Transmits copy of letters on the subject of	38
85	Sir A. Paget ..	551	Dec. 2,	Separation of fleet. Reply from Count Maffei to proposal to Italian Government in regard to	40
86	„ „ ..	559 Confidential	3,	Italy and Greece. No official answer given by Italian to Greek Government	40
87	„ „ ..	558	4,	Delimitation of Dulcigno frontier. M. Cairoli will send instructions to Count Corti in the same sense as instructions to Mr. Goschen ..	41
88	„ „ ..	561 Confidential	4,	Greek Frontier question. M. Cairoli's views..	41
89	Lord Lyons ..	1120	5,	Dulcigno frontier. Instructions sent to French Ambassador at Constantinople with regard to settlement of. Extender	42
90	Captain Sale ..	54 Telegraphic	7,	Non-arrival of French Commissioner. Delay caused thereby. Reference to No. 80 ..	42
91	„ „ ..	55 Telegraphic	8,	Definition of new Montenegrin frontier between lake and sea	42
92	Mr. Corbett ..	363 Confidential	Nov. 27.	Arrival of M. de Moüy at Athens. Views of French Government on Greek question. Extender	43
93	„ „ ..	366 Secret and Confidential	Dec. 1,	Audience of the King. His Majesty's views..	43
94	Mr. Goschen ..	638	1,	Cession of Dulcigno. Reports. Has expressed acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government. Forwards copy of Porte's note	43
95	To Lord Lyons ..	1550	9,	Naval demonstration. Count de Montebello's statement in Yellow Book	44
96	Consul-General Blunt.	144	Nov. 24,	Arrest of Bulgarians of Kiuprulu. Forwards letter from Messrs. Bogas, Brothers, on the subject	45
97	„ „ ..	145	24,	North and South Albania. Proposal of Ilias Pasha respecting the amalgamation of vilayets..	46
98	Sir A. Paget ..	564	Dec. 7,	Committee formed in Rome for succour of Greece. Incloses extracts from "Diritto" and "Popolo Romano" respecting ..	46
99	Lord Lyons ..	1132	9,	Frontier delimitation. Conversation with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire as to non-arrival of French Commissioner	47
100	Captain Sale ..	56 Telegraphic	10,	Villages of Kalliman and I kovce. Montenegrin protest against continued retention of by Turks	48
101	„ „ ..	57 Telegraphic	10,	Dulcigno. Formal acknowledgment of cession has been given to Turkish Governor-General	48
102	Mr. Plunkett ..	249 Telegraphic	10,	Proposed cession of Crete to Greece in lieu of Janina. Leading article in "Agence Russe"	48
103	To Sir H. Elliot .	795	10,	Non-fulfilment of certain provisions of Berlin Treaty. Transmits copy of Mr. Lascelles' despatch inclosing copy of reply of Bulgarian Government respecting.. ..	48
104	To Mr. St. John ..	750	10,	Claims of British subjects on the Porte. Mode of dealing with. Approves Mr. Goschen's note to Assim Pasha on the subject ..	49
105	Mr. Kirby Green ..	348	Nov. 27.	Surrender of Dulcigno to take place at once. Audience of Prince	49
106	Mr. Kirby Green ..	349	29,	Frontier point of San Giorgio. Transmits *note verbale* respecting misunderstanding between Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders	50
107	„ „ ..	350	30,	Satisfaction shown by Prince and Princess at settlement of Frontier question	51
108	Lord Lyons ..	1137	Dec. 10,	Greece. Language held by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to M. Bratiás	51
109	„ „ ..	1138 Confidential	10,	Greek frontier. Plan of settling by arbitration under consideration at French Foreign Office	51

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
110	Admiralty	..	Dec. 10, 1880	Dulcigno. Forwards copy of letter from Prince to Admiral, tendering thanks to Admiral and colleagues	52
111	To Mr. St. John ..	752	11,	Non-compliance of Bulgaria to fulfil Berlin Treaty. Inform Porte of representations addressed by Her Majesty's Government to Bulgaria respecting	53
112	To Captain Sale ..	39	11,	Dulcigno cession. Approves his having accompanied Montenegrin General on occasion of his entering the city	53
113	Sir H. Elliot ..	766	Nov. 28,	Baron Haymerle wishes to postpone delimitation. Extender	53
114	„ „ ..	768	28,	Naval demonstration. Extender	53
115	„ „ ..	771	30,	Naval demonstration. Separation of fleet. Extender	54
116	„ „ ..	773	30,	Montenegrin Frontier Commission. Extender.	54
117	„ „ ..	776	Dec. 2,	Montenegrin frontier. Austro-Hungarian Government wish question settled quickly. Extender	55
118	„ „ ..	779	3,	Naval demonstration. Austro-Hungarian Government's answer to Her Majesty's Government respecting separation of fleets. Extender of No. 35	55
119	„ „ ..	781 Confidential	3,	Arms procured by Montenegro, and question of jealousy shown by Austro-Hungarian Government	56
120	„ „ ..	782 Very Conf.	4,	Greek frontier. Views of Austro-Hungarian Government	56
121	„ „ ..	784	4,	Fleet movements. Extends No. 52.. ..	57
122	„ „ ..	789 Confidential	8,	European concert as affected by separation of squadron. Conversation with Baron Haymerle	57
123	„ „ ..	790 Confidential	8,	Greek armaments. Transmits copy of despatch from Baron von Wacken	58
124	„ „ ..	791	8,	Servian Agrarian Law. Austro-Hungarian Government not fully determined respecting ..	59
125	Mr. Lascelles ..	176	Nov. 29,	Recruitment of Bulgarian army	59
126	Mr. Gould	114	Dec. 1,	Russian demonstration at Alexinatz. Forwards copy of Vice-Consul Baker's despatch respecting	60
127	„ „	116 Confidential	7,	Influence of Austria paramount at present with Prince Milan and his advisers ..	61
128	Mr. Corbett ..	368	3,	Decree mobilizing the Greek naval forces ..	61
129	Lord Odo Russell ..	554	3,	Naval demonstration. German Commander to depart from Cattaro with Sir B. Seymour to Malta or elsewhere. Extends No. 32 ..	62
130	„ „ ..	556 Confidential	3,	Naval demonstration. The German ship "Victoria" may have to go to Trieste, instead of Malta, to refit. Extends No. 33 . ..	63
131	„ „ ..	560	3,	Dulcigno frontier. Immediate delimitation. German Government agrees with Her Majesty's Government. Extends No. 34 ..	63
132	Mr. Plunkett ..	585	4,	Naval demonstration. Instructions to Russian ships on leaving Cattaro. Extends No. 56 .	63
133	„ „ ..	586 Confidential	4,	Conversation with M. de Giers	63
134	„ „ ..	588	4,	Dulcigno frontier. Immediate delimitation. Conversation with M. de Giers. Extends No. 58	6
135	„ „ ..	592 Confidential	8,	Dulcigno delimitation. Porte will refuse unless the line beyond the lake is the first to be settled. Conversation with the Turkish Ambassador	65
136	Mr. White ..	155 Confidential	6,	Russian and Austrian intrigues for preponderance on the Danube..	66
137	Mr. Corbett ..	64 Telegraphic	13,	List of foreign ships at the Piræus	66
138	To Mr. St. John ..	753	13,	Despatch respecting identity of Ahmed, Mudir of Dospat. To supply Mr. Stephen with copy of note from Porte inclosed in Mr. Goschen's No. 571 of the 15th November ..	67
139	Mr. Corbett ..	372	4,	Sale of public property in Epirus and Thessaly subsequent to the Award of the Berlin Conference. Greek protest to the Powers ..	67
140	Captain Sale ..	36	4,	Definition of new Montenegrin frontier between lake and sea	67

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
141	M. Contostavlos ..	..	Dec. 12, 1880	Greek refusal to assent to revision of the Berlin Award	68
142	Mr. Summa ..	Telegraphic	13,	Prenk, the Mirdite, and Hodo Pasha sent to Constantinople on a Turkish frigate	68
143	Mr. Plunkett ..	598	10,	Article on questions awaiting solution in the Balkan Peninsula from the "Agence Russe"	68
144	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	Telegraphic	14,	Greek question. Views of the Porte ..	69
145	Mr. St. John ..	384 Telegraphic	15,	Long telegram from Porte on Greek question. See above	70
146	To Sir A. Paget ..	667A	15,	Greek question. Conversation with General Menabrea	70
147	To Mr. Corbett ..	166	15,	Conversation with the Greek Minister ..	70
148	Consul-General Blunt.	149	2,	Military proceedings in district of Kiuprulu. Much excitement among Bulgarians consequent on	70
149	„ „	150	2,	Brigandage in Thessaly. Despatch from Mr. Longworth	71
150	Mr. Corbett ..	370 Confidential	4,	Greek Government wish the British squadron to be sent to the Piræus. Extends No. 55	72
151	„ „ ..	373	7,	Incursion of Greek bands into Turkish territory. Circular to border authorities to put down	73
152	„ „ ..	374	7,	Russian squadron goes to Naples instead of the Piræus. Extends No. 78 ..	73
153	„ „ ..	376	8,	Speeches of MM. Tricoupi, Delyanni, and Commoundouros in the Chambers .	73
154	Consul St. John ..	1	8,	Turkish transport, laden with munitions of war, leaves Ragusa for Constantinople	76
155	Captain Sale ..	37	10,	Disputes between Montenegro and the Turks respecting the transfer of certain places	76
156	Mr. Stephen ..	93 Confidential Telegraphic	15,	Contracts for Russian officers in the militia. Difference between Russian Consul-General and Aleko Pasha	77
157	To Mr. Plunkett ..	633	16,	Montenegrin boundary. Approves language as reported in his despatch No. 569 of the 29th November	77
158	Mr. Stephen ..	369 Confidential	3,	General views of Bulgarians, Greeks, and Turks in Eastern Roumelia .. .	77
159	„ „ ..	370	3,	Sentence passed on Bulgarians handed over to justice by the Kirdjali Commission	80
160	Mr. Goschen ..	644	6,	Respecting appointment of Ali Pasha as Commissioner in Salonica Vilayet	80
161	„ „ ..	647	6	Torpedoes sent to Widdin. Despatch from Mr. Dalziel	80
162	„ „ ..	648	6,	Redif battalions of Balikisri and Edramid called out for service at the Dardanelles. Despatch from Colonel Wilson	81
163	„ „ ..	650	6,	Montenegrin delimitation between lake and the sea. Copy of *pro-memorid* of Representatives of the Powers to the Porte	81
164	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	..	9,	Servian Agrarian Law. To try and obtain a reply from Her Majesty's Government favourable to Turkish demands	82
165	„ „ ..	Confidential Telegraphic	15,	Greek question. Views of Porte	83
166	Sir A. Paget ..	159 Telegraphic	17,	Greece. Turkish Circular of 14th (No. 144) communicated to Italian Foreign Minister	84
167	To Earl of Dufferin ..	634	17,	Ultimate movement of combined fleets after cession of Dulcigno. Mr. Plunkett's language in his despatches Nos. 566 and 568 of the 26th and 27th November approved	84
168	To Sir H. Elliot ..	869 Telegraphic	18,	Montenegro. Definition of new frontier between lake and sea. To call attention of Baron Haymerle to certain points of discrepancy	84
169	Lord Lyons ..	133 Telegraphic	18,	Greek question. France proposes settlement by arbitration instead of mediation .	84
170	To Sir H. Elliot ..	803	18,	Montenegro. Copy of No. 140 and other despatches	85
171	„ „ ..	804	18,	Montenegro As to the line which the boundary should follow. To ascertain views of Baron Haymerle	85
172	Lord Lyons ..	1167 Confidential	18,	Greece. Arbitration scheme. Extends No. 169	85

No	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
173	Mr. St. John .	385 Telegraphic	Dec. 19, 1880	Montenegro. Ottoman Delegate to join the other Commissioners	86
174	Sir H. Elliot ..	799	11,	M. d'Oubril's views on Austrian opinion on the Greek question	86
175	„ „	800 Confidential	16,	Views of Baron Haymerle on the Porte's note on Greek question and arbitration scheme .	87
176	Captain Sale ..	..	13,	New frontier between lake and sea. Has prepared map and specification of. Arrangement proposed	87
177	Consul Reade ..	Confidential	15,	Arrival of General Soutzos. Despatch from Vice-Consul at Santa Maura	88
178	Mr. Plunkett ..	616	16,	Greek question. Present views of Russia ..	89
179	Lord Odo Russell ..	574	17,	Greek question. Note from Porte received at Berlin	90
180	„ „ .	575 Most Conf.	18,	Russia and Germany. His opinion on relations between	90
181	„ „ ..	576 Very Conf.	18,	Prince Bismarck's views as expressed to the Russian Ambassador	91
182	„ „ ..	577 Confidential	18,	Greek question. Suggestion respecting arbitration, and another suggestion by M. Tissot and Count Hatzfeldt, announced to him by the French Ambassador ..	91
183	Sir A. Paget ..	570	17,	Turkish Circular of the 14th December respecting warlike preparations of Greece. Received at Rome	91
184	Admiralty	..	17,	Naval demonstration. Separation of the allied squadron. Letter from Sir B. Seymour .	92
185	Lord Odo Russell ..	130 Telegraphic	20,	Greece. French arbitration proposal. Conditions on which Germany will accept	93
186	Captain Sale ..	58 Telegraphic	20,	Proposes to go and wait further orders at Rome	93
187	Mr. St. John ..	386 Telegraphic	20,	Sultan is to receive French Legion of Honour..	93
188	„ „ ..	387 Telegraphic	20,	Importation of arms and ammunition into Turkey. Porte wants reply to note in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 372 of the 20th September last	93
189	To Lord Lyons ..	666 Telegraphic	20,	Greek question. Arbitration scheme. Views of Her Majesty's Government. Reply to No. 169	94
190	„ „ ..	1584	20,	Extends above	94
191	Admiralty	..	18,	Separation of the allied squadrons, and assistance of foreign Commanders to Admiral. Letter from Sir B. Seymour	94
192	Sir H. Elliot ..	209 Telegraphic	21,	Greek question. Baron Haymerle's views on arbitration proposal	95
193	Sir A. Paget ..	160 Telegraphic	21,	Arbitration. Count Maffei has replied affirmatively to French proposal	96
194	To Sir A. Paget ..	678	21,	French arbitration proposal. Conversation with General Menabrea . ..	96
195	„ „ ..	679	21,	Cordial feeling of Italy towards England. Conversation with General Menabrea ..	96
196	To Mr. St. John ..	770	21,	Copy of No. 144. Communicated by Musurus Bey	96
197	To General Menabrea.	..	21,	Greece. Circular of Porte. Her Majesty's Government will not return a reply till they know the opinions of other Powers	97
198	Consul-General Blunt.	154	11,	Albanians of Uscup refuse to recognize appointment of Arif Effendi as their Mutessarif ..	97
199	„ „ ..	155	12,	State of affairs at Volo. Number of troops in Thessaly. Letter from Volo	97
200	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	15	11,	Disgraceful conduct of Government troops in district of Comitza. Despatch from Janina	98
201	Mr. Summa ..	Telegraphic	21,	Tusi taken possession of by Turkish General	99
202	To Lord Lyons ..	668 Telegraphic	22,	French Montenegrin Commissioner. Urge his proceeding to Montenegro .. .	99
203	Mr. Corbett ..	66 Telegraphic	22,	Arbitration. Greece will not accept ..	99
204	To Lord Lyons ..	669 Telegraphic	22,	Her Majesty's Government agree to arbitration, but Turkey and Greece must agree to abide by award (see No. 172) . ..	99
205	Lord Lyons ..	134 Telegraphic	22,	French Commissioner started home days ago (see No. 202)..	99
206	„ „ ..	135 Telegraphic	22,	French Minister says other four Powers have accepted arbitration proposal (see No. 189)	99
207	Sir H. Elliot ..	210 Telegraphic	22,	Montenegro. Baron Haymerle would not send identic instructions as proposed by Captain Sale	100

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
208	Sir H. Elliot ..	211 Telegraphic	Dec. 22, 1880	Reply of Baron Haymerle to French arbitration proposal	100
209	To Lord Lyons ..	1585	22,	Extends No. 202	100
210	„ „ ..	1592	22,	Extends No. 204	100
211	To Sir H. Elliot ..	810	22,	The proposal for separation of the fleets does not necessarily involve their future re-assembly	101
212	Mr. Corbett ..	381	15,	Reception by King of Russian Minister ..	101
213	Lord Lyons ..	1176	22,	Montenegrin frontier. Movements of French Commissioner. Extends No. 205 . ..	102
214	„ „ ..	1178	22,	Arbitration scheme. Explanations of M. Barthélemy de St Hilaire	102
215	Mr. Corbett ..	67 Telegraphic	22,	Arbitration. See No. 203. Conversation between M. de Moüy and Prime Minister ..	103
216	Earl of Dufferin ..	251 Telegraphic	22,	Arbitration. Russia accepts in principle and conditionally	103
217	Lord Lyons ..	136 Telegraphic	22,	Arbitration. Has communicated No. 204 to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire .. .	104
218	Mr. St. John ..	390 Telegraphic	23,	Arbitration. Count Corti says Greece would accept if Powers would enforce their decision in a certain time	104
				Proceedings of Dervish Pasha	104
219	Mr. Summa ..	1	14,	Arbitration. Extends No. 217	105
220	Lord Lyons ..	1180	22,	Representations of French Representatives at	
221	Sir A. Paget ..	161 Telegraphic	24,	Athens and Constantinople. Italy will support	105
222	To Captain Sale ..	52 Telegraphic	24,	He must give up his journey to Rome ..	105
223	Mr. St. John ..	392 Telegraphic	24,	Arbitration scheme. If Greece refuses the Porte would accept	105
224	Mr. Corbett ..	63 Confidential Telegraphic	24,	As to language of Greek Foreign Minister to Italian Minister at Athens	106
225	„ „ ..	69 Telegraphic	24,	Arbitration. French Minister has not yet been instructed to make formal communication to Greece	106
226	„ „ ..	70 Telegraphic	25,	Greek Foreign Minister maintains views already expressed. Attitude of his colleagues ..	106
227	Mr. Stephen ..	94 Telegraphic	24,	Roumelian militia companies. Reduction in ..	107
228	„ „ ..	95 Telegraphic	25,	Session of Assembly closed	107
229	Mr. St. John ..	393 Telegraphic	25,	Arbitration. French Ambassador says he has nothing to communicate respecting his interview with Prime Minister	107
230	M. Coumoundouros to M. Contostavlos	Telegraphic	24,	Arbitration. Reply to French Minister ..	107
231	Mr. Stephen ..	96 Confidential Telegraphic	25,	Proposed alterations in Budget. Annoyance of Aleko Pasha	107
232	„ „ ..	97 Telegraphic	26,	Aleko Pasha has sent in his resignation ..	108
233	Captain Sale ..	59 Telegraphic	26,	As to official communication to him of definition of new boundary between lake and sea ..	108
234	Mr. St. John ..	394 Telegraphic	26,	Arbitration. Count Corti instructed to support French proposal	108
235	Mr. Lascelles ..	178	11,	New Bulgarian Cabinet. M. Karaveloff is President. Note from M. Zancoff ..	108
236	„ „ ..	179 Confidential	11,	Prince of Bulgaria and his Ministers. Opinion of the Prince..	109
237	„ „ ..	181	13,	Naturalization Law. Passed by National Assembly with amendments	110
238	Lord Odo Russell ..	581 Confidential	20,	Greece. Arbitration. Conditions on which Germany would accept French proposal. Extends No. 185	111
239	Sir H. Elliot ..	801 Confidential	20	Servian Agrarian Law. Servia hopes she will not be asked to repeal or modify ..	111
240	„ „ ..	805	21,	Greece. Arbitration. Baron Haymerle's willingness to accept. Extends No. 192 .	111
241	„ „ ..	807	22,	Montenegrin frontier. Baron Haymerle thinks the Duleigno demarcation should be left to the Commissioners. Extends No. 207 ..	112
242	„ „ ..	809 Confidential	22,	Greece. Arbitration. Reply of Baron Haymerle to French proposal. Extends No. 208	112
243	„ „ ..	810	22,	Bulgarian fortresses. Conversation with Baron Haymerle respecting demolition of ..	113

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
244	Sir H. Elliot ..	117 Commercial Confidential	Dec. 23, 1880	Bulgarian and Danube Commission. Deceit practised by M. Zancoff on the Austrian Agent	113
245	Mr. Stephen ..	98 Telegraphic	26,	Governor-General has telegraphed his resignation to the Sultan	114
246	„ „ ..	99 Telegraphic	26,	Governor-General withdraws his resignation ..	114
247	Mr. St. John ..	395 Telegraphic	27,	Greece. Turkey will probably meet arbitration scheme by proposal of a Conference ..	114
248	Mr. Corbett ..	Telegraphic	27,	Greece. Arbitration. Italian Minister to act in accordance with him	114
249	To Mr. Stephen ..	56	27,	Improved state of Eastern Roumelia. Approves his advice to Bulgarians, &c., reported in No. 158	114
250	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	27,	Servian Agrarian Law. Is receiving the attention of the English Government	115
251	Mr. Kirby Green ..	..	23,	Albanian memorial to Sultan. Character of Djemal Bey	115
252	„ „ ..	Confidential	24,	Armament by Montenegro	116
253	„ „ ..	..	24,	Extent of territory comprised in "Dulcigno district." Remarks on Captain Sale's despatch No. 37 (see No. 155)	116
254	Mr. Stephen ..	100 Telegraphic	27,	Aleko Pasha's intended resignation. Unwillingness of Sultan to accept. Resignation tion withdrawn	116
255	Mr. Corbett ..	72 Very Conf. Telegraphic	28,	French arbitration proposal. Russian Minister has received instructions to support ..	117
256	Mr. St. John ..	396 Telegraphic	28,	Seclusion and silence of French Ambassador ..	117
257	To Captain Sale ..	54 Telegraphic	23,	Frontier between lake and sea. Leaves it to his own discretion as to which line should be followed. Reply to No. 233	117
258	To Mr. Corbett ..	168 Very Conf.	28,	Greek frontier. Conversation with M. Contostavlos. Conditions on which success of arbitration might be insured, as suggested at Friedrichsruhe. Greece would never consent.	117
259	Consul-General Blunt.	159	17,	Condition of Bulgarian families deported from Kiuprulu to Polygeros. Forwards despatch from Cassandra respecting	117
260	„ „ ..	160	18,	Decrease of brigandage, and military preparations at Serres. Transmits extract of letter respecting	119
261	„ „ ..	161	19,	Occurrences at Uscup. Forwards copy of a letter from trustworthy source respecting ..	120
262	„ „ ..	163	19,	Departure of Mutessarif and Military Pasha of Serres for Nevrocop. Reports	121
263	Sir A. Paget ..	576	22,	Proposed arbitration of Powers. Extends telegram	121
264	„ „ ..	579	24,	Conversation with M. Malvano respecting proposed arbitration	122
265	„ „ ..	583	24,	Proposed arbitration. M. Cairoli has instructed Representatives to support representations of French Agents in the matter. Extends No. 221	122
266	„ „ ..	584	24,	Italian Consul-General will act in place of Colonel Ottolenghi, who returns to Rome ..	122
267	M. Challemel-Lacour.	..	24,	Thanks of French Government for courtesy of British Admiral	123
268	Mr. Corbett ..	73 Telegraphic	29,	French proposal of arbitration. German Minister instructed to support	123
269	Lord Odo Russell ..	587 Confidential	26,	Proposed arbitration. Count Hatzfeldt does not expect that Sultan will accept. Views of German and French Ambassador as to policy of Sultan	123
270	Lord Lyons ..	1196	29,	Imprudence of Greek Government. Despatch prepared by French Government for communication to Greece setting forth ..	123
271	Captain Sale ..	60 Telegraphic	30,	Movements of French and Italian Commissioners	124
272	Mr. St. John ..	399 Telegraphic	30,	Proposed arbitration. Formal proposal of French Ambassador to Prime Minister ..	124
273	To Lord Odo Russell.	805	30,	Arbitration. Conditions on which German Government will consent to	124
274	To Lord Lyons ..	1619 Confidential	30,	Arbitration. Conversation with French Ambassador	125

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
275	Mr. Stephen ..	372 Confidential	Dec. 15, 1880	Contracts for Russian officers in the militia. Prince Tzeretelew's demands. Uneasiness of Governor-General thereat .. .	125
276	„ „ ..	373	18,	Ill-treatment of Bulgarians by Turks. Painful impression produced	126
277	„ „ ..	374 Confidential	17,	Improved condition of Mussulmans in Bourgas district. Forwards Report from Mr. Brophy	126
278	Mr. St. John ..	685	21,	Frontier between sea and Lake Scutari. Ottoman Commissioner instructed to join Commissioners of Powers in order to proceed with delimitation. Forwards note from Porte to that effect	127
279	„ „ ..	691	22,	Return of Bulgarians and Greeks to their homes. Forwards despatch from Mr. Blunt on the subject	128
280	M. Coumoundouros to M. Contostavlos	Telegraphic	30,	Decision of Berlin Conference. Views of French Government as to it not being final. Importance of this question as regards Greece	126
281	Mr. St. John ..	400 Telegraphic	30,	Arbitration. Representatives of Powers have received instructions to support. Probability that Porte will not agree to above ..	129
282	To Lord Lyons ..	676 Telegraphic	31,	Inconvenience of delay by French Government. Call their attention to the fact ..	129
283	„ „ ..	1617	31,	Extends above	129

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CONFIDENTIAL

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LVI.

No. 1.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 345. Political.)

Cettinjé, November 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a most interesting extract from a letter received by me from Mr. Summa, with reference to the efforts which are being made by Dervish Pasha to induce the Albanians to consent to the surrender of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Mr. Summa to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Extract.) *Scutari, le* 13 *Novembre,* 1880.

ON ne pourrait pas méconnaître la gravité actuelle des choses dans ce pays. C'est évident que Dervich Pacha fait tout son possible pour pouvoir effectuer la cession de Dulcigno le plus tôt possible. Chaque jour il a des entrevues avec les Chefs les plus influents de la Ligue. Il ne se borne plus aux conseils, mais il menace maintenant de recourrir à des actes énergiques en cas de refus. Les Chefs ont convoqué la population qui, de son côté, s'est déclarée pour une opposition armée. Cette décision des habitants a été communiquée hier au Commandant par Daud Effendi et M. Simoni.

Dervich Pacha hier a déclaré que ceux qui s'opposaient à la cession de Dulcigno n'étaient que des ennemis de l'Empire, et qu'ils voulaient la ruine de la Turquie, mais qu'il les avait traités en rebelles.

Malgré le caractère énergique qu'on lui suppose, et bien qu'il y ait lieu d'attendre de lui quelque coup d'énergie, toutefois les Musulmans, excités d'ailleurs par des Chefs fanatiques, sont décidés à le braver et à entraver le plus possible son action, espérant aussi qu'il ne soit pas autorisé à avoir recours à la force des armes, et le jour sur ce sujet ne tardera pas à se faire.

Dervich Pacha a aujourd'hui communiqué à mon neveu qu'il attendait quatre bataillons.

No. 2.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 346. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 25, 1880.*

THE accounts sent to me from Scutari of the proceedings of Dervish Pasha with the natives, one and all, admit that he had used the strongest possible language and threats to persuade them to agree to the surrender of Dulcigno and its district, but at the same time bring out in the clearest light the incredulity of the whole population in the Pasha's sincerity, and their conviction that they had still to interpret the Porte's wishes in a contrary sense to its public declarations.

As late as the day before yesterday, and even after Dervish Pasha had dispersed the Albanians near Dulcigno, at Scutari, where the news of this had not yet reached, the population continued bent on resistance and loud in its threats against the Turkish regular troops.

From the accounts now hourly coming from the Dulcigno frontier, through Montenegrin sources, matters are assuming more and more a satisfactory appearance, the Albanians being reported as dispersing and withdrawing to their homes.

I believe that the Porte, through the openly avowed intention of the party led by Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, to set up an autonomous Albanian State, entirely governed by Mahommedan Albanians, has at last perceived the danger of the course it has lately pursued in fostering the League, and has determined to check aspirations which can only entail ruin on the whole country, through the extremely ignorant, barbarous, and fanatical elements which compose this Mussulman Albanian party.

The Southern and Middle Albanians have declined to join those of Dibra, Kalkandelen, Prisrend, Jacova, Ipek, and Gusinjé in their demands; and even in these latter districts the Porte is circulating for signature a petition to itself, merely praying for the *status quo*, plus the reforms which the Supreme Government may extend to other provinces of the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 347. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that about ten days ago, when the Scutarine Mussulmans who had been forming a part of the contingent of volunteers guarding the Albanian lines at Touzi and on the eastern side of Lake Scutari wished to return home for the Feast of Bairam, and also to join the force at Dulcigno, the Roman Catholic tribesmen of Hotti, who suspected that they were about to be abandoned to bear alone the responsibility of the recent opposition to the April Convention, objected to the withdrawal of their Mussulman fellow-countrymen, and only allowed them to leave after depriving them of a considerable number of breech-loading rifles and 400 boxes of cartridges.

The Hotti have also destroyed the Turkish block-houses at Pod Hum and other points in that vicinity, but whether they will be held answerable for these acts is doubtful, as the Porte has lately repeatedly declared itself unable to control the proceedings of the mountaineers on their own territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 610.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1880.*

MR. LASCELLES has furnished me with a copy of his despatch to your Lordship No. 163 of the 30th ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation he had had with M. Zancoff on various points in which Bulgaria is interested in connection with her obligations under the Treaty of Berlin.

I should be glad to be favoured with your Lordship's instructions whether I should inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, acting under instructions he had received from Her Majesty's Government, had called the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the question of the demolition of the old fortresses imposed upon the Principality by Article XI of that Treaty; and, generally, whether your Lordship would desire that the Sublime Porte should be informed of the remonstrances made by Mr. Lascelles, as described in the despatch to which I have referred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 613.)

My Lord, *Pera, November 26, 1880.*

DURING the last few days events have occurred at Dulcigno which appear at last to render the cession a certainty.

At the meeting of Ambassadors on Wednesday, to which I alluded when I last addressed your Lordship on the subject of Dulcigno, we decided unanimously not to press for the explanation as to the progress of the cession which we had intended to demand, as the news received on Tuesday at the Porte gave promise of the approaching end of the difficulty.

I telegraphed to your Lordship that Dervish Pasha had entered Dulcigno with four battalions, and had occupied the various strategic positions with four others.

I now inclose a copy of the Proclamation which he issued.

Your Lordship will have received direct information from Cettigné of the progress of the negotiations for the actual transfer of Dulcigno which are taking place at this moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Proclamation.

Dulcignotes!

LA cession de Dulcigno au Gouvernement Monténégrin constitue une obligation découlant des Traités.

La décision que l'Etat a dû adopter à la suite des démarches pressantes et réitérées des Puissances ne peut être ni altérée, ni différée. Vos intérêts et votre salut vous conseillent même de vous soumettre promptement à cette décision. Si vous essayez d'ajourner l'accomplissement d'un fait qui résulte des Traités et des circonstances, si vous vous laissez entraîner par les menées d'une foule de malveillants qui cherchent à profiter de la prolongation de la question, vous serez responsables devant Dieu et devant le Chéri d'avoir désobéi aux ordres de notre auguste Souverain, ce qui nécessitera votre punition d'après le Chéri et la loi. En un mot, si vous voulez gagner du temps en vue de ne pas livrer Dulcigno, ainsi que vous l'avez fait d'abord pour Goussinjé-Plava, et ensuite pour Hotti, Groudi, et Clementi, je vous avertis qu'au point où en est arrivée la question, le présent ne saurait être comparé au passé. Et comme dans un endroit où l'état de siège est proclamé, le Commandant-en-chef a pleins pouvoirs pour sévir de son propre chef et de toutes façons contre ceux qui manifesteraient des velléités de résistance aux ordres des autorités, je viens vous inviter encore une fois à vous soumettre à la décision définitive du Gouvernement Impérial.

J'aviserai au transport avec leurs familles de tous ceux qui voudrait se retirer derrière les nouvelles frontières en même temps que les troupes Impériales. Je vous donne les assurances les plus formelles comme quoi les personnes qui se trouveraient dans le cas de se transporter ainsi en deçà de la nouvelle ligne de démarcation, recevront, après leur déplacement, suivant les ordres de Sa Majesté, des habitations, des terrains suffisants, et, enfin, des secours assez larges pour les mettre à l'abri de tout dommage, de tout embarras, à cause de leur émigration.

Au cas où vous persisteriez à manifester de la résistance, sans reconnaître les faveurs si nombreuses dont vous êtes l'objet, ni apprécier les conseils justes et paternels que je vous adresse, je saurai remplir les obligations inhérentes aux fonctions dont je suis investi par le Gouvernement Impérial, et j'exercerai immédiatement les moyens de coercitation que m'imposent le Chéri et la loi, laissant retomber sur vous la responsabilité toute entière. Seront punis également tous ceux qui, en vue de susciter des difficultés contre la décision de l'autorité, prêteraient main-forte aux Dulcignotes, et les encourageraient à persévérer dans la voie de la résistance, aussi préjudiciable pour eux que pour l'Etat.

No. 6.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 617.)
My Lord,

Pera, November 26, 1880.

I AM now in a position to be able to give your Lordship some further information with regard to the sale of Government lands, or "tchiftliks," in Epirus and Thessaly, which formed the subject of my despatch No. 527 of the 1st instant, and with reference to which question I have received your Lordship's instructions by telegraph to suspend all action for the present.

Lists have been furnished to me from a reliable source, giving the names, values, and dates at which sales of such lands have taken place.

From these lists I learn that six farms were put up for sale by the Government in the months of July, August, and September, 1879, which realized the sum of 33,548 Turkish medjidiés (about £ T. 6,710),

Thirty-nine others were sold in December 1879 and January 1880 in the Janina, Evkery, and Prevesa Sandjaks, these latter representing each an annual rent of from 1,868 to 59,157 Turkish piastres.

Twenty-seven more farms in the same localities were put up to auction at the same time, but the earnest-money was not paid.

Nineteen others were sold in June and July 1880, realizing the sum of £ T. 87,500. M. Zarifi was the purchaser of these lands, the sales of which have been since withdrawn.

I am further informed that many sales have taken place from time to time, at prior dates to any of those specified above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 7.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 542.)
My Lord,

Rome, November 28, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a memorandum embodying the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 835 and 836 of the 26th instant, relative to the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier and the instructions proposed to be sent to the Admirals commanding the combined squadrons, which memorandum, as I was unable to see M. Cairoli or Count Maffei, I left yesterday morning at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Yesterday evening I received from Count Maffei a note, in which he states as follows:—

"We are going to send similar instructions to our military Commissioner, and with regard to the desirability of proceeding immediately with the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, we shall be ready to do so at once if the other Powers agree to it, and we expect that your Government will kindly let us know the answers of the other Cabinets.

"We are also ready to adopt the instructions you propose to send to the naval forces, as soon as you let us know that they have been adopted as well by you and the other Powers."

It has been explained to me this afternoon by M. Malvano that the Italian Government did not make their acceptance of the immediate delimitation of the frontier, and the proposed instructions to the Admirals, dependent on their acceptance by the other

Powers. The Italian Government, he said, accepted both proposals unconditionally; it was only their being put into execution, which must of course be dependent upon the agreement of the other Powers, and they hoped to hear the decision of the other Powers from Her Majesty's Government.

The instructions to Colonel Ottolenghi, in conformity with those to Captain Sale, have, M. Malvano informed me, been sent.

I may add, though your Lordship will of course have received the same information from Mr. Green, that M. Durando has telegraphed to say that Bozo Petrovich had reported that so far were he and his troops from meeting with opposition on entering Dulcigno, that they were acclaimed with joyful demonstrations by the population, who came out to meet them, and that the most perfect order prevailed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Memorandum.

CAPTAIN SALE, who is at Antivari, having requested instructions as to his movements with reference to the possibility that it may be considered desirable to proceed at once with the delineation of the Dulcigno frontier, Lord Granville has desired him to remain if the other Commissioners do so, otherwise to await orders at some other convenient place.

Her Majesty's Government are desirous of learning the views of His Italian Majesty's Government as to the desirability of proceeding immediately with the delineation.

Her Majesty's Government wish also to be informed whether His Italian Majesty's Government will agree to direct their Admiral, when the cession of Dulcigno is accomplished, to take separate cruizes, with prearranged places of call for orders in case of necessity arising.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

British Embassy, November 27, 1880.

No. 8.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 543.)
My Lord,

Rome, November 28, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 542 of this day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I acquainted M. Malvano, when I saw him this afternoon, with the information reported in Lord Lyons' telegrams No. 125 of the 25th and No. 126 of the 27th instant, repeated in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 837 and 838 of the 27th instant, viz., that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs considers it desirable that the delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier should be proceeded with immediately, and that the French Government wished the fleets to separate immediately after the occupation of Dulcigno by the Montenegrins, but at the same time consider that it would be proper to fix beforehand a rendezvous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 9.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 60. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Athens, December 1, 1880.

THE King expressed himself to me very warmly to-day as to the unreasonableness and inutility of the advice which the French Government has sent to Greece.

His Majesty said that at the point things had arrived at, it was impossible for Greece to do otherwise than continue her warlike preparations. He had at first been opposed to

their being carried out at as early a date as the late Ministry desired, but now Greece could only persevere in the line she had adopted. To act otherwise would be fatal to the prosperity of the kingdom and to the interests of the Hellenic race.

In answer to my inquiry whether, now that the Dulcigno business appears settled, the Greek Government would endeavour to ascertain the intentions of the Powers as to the means to be employed to put Greece into possession of the new frontier, His Majesty said that no step would be taken in that direction at present, until the military preparations here are more complete, and the Greek army in a position to occupy and hold the provinces.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 10.

*Earl Granville to Captain Sale.**

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880, 5 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government wish to know the exact number of killed and wounded on both sides in Dervish Pasha's encounter with the Albanians.

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 804.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 204 of yesterday, repeated to you, Her Majesty's Government would be glad if you would endeavour to settle the question of delineating Montenegrin frontier between sea and Lake Scutari before you leave Constantinople next week.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.†

(No. 941.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880, 6 P.M.

I PROPOSE to the Government to which you are accredited that they should name without delay some place or places to which their ships will proceed from Cattaro, and thereupon the Commander-in-chief should be authorized to give the signal to part company.

Her Majesty's Government propose to send their ships to Malta.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1522.)
My Lord. *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1091 of the 27th ultimo, I have to point out to you that Her Majesty's Government did not propose that a rendezvous should be fixed at which the several squadrons might call for orders, but that the several Admirals should be instructed to take separate cruizes, with prearranged places of call for orders in case of the necessity arising.

It was not meant that a rendezvous should be appointed at which all the squadrons should assemble.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Summa and Mr. Peacock.

† Also to Lord Lyons (No. 655), Sir A. Paget (No. 851), Sir H. Elliot (No. 857), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 805).

No. 14.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1524. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880.

I HAVE to request you to propose to the French Government that they should at once name some place or places to which their ships shall be directed to proceed on leaving the Bay of Cattaro. The same proposition has been made to the other Governments who have taken part in the demonstration, and Her Majesty's Government suggest that, when the respective Commanders shall have received their instructions, the Commander-in-chief shall be authorized to give the signal to part company. You may add that Her Majesty's Government propose to select Malta as the place to which the British vessels will be ordered to sail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1880.

THE settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, which the naval demonstration was designed to promote, having been satisfactorily carried out by the surrender of the Dulcigno district to Montenegro on the 27th ultimo, it will probably not be necessary that the combined squadrons should remain in the vicinity of the Montenegrin coast.

I have the honour to suggest that the proceedings of Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour, as brought under the notice of this Department in the various Reports which your Lordships have from time to time communicated to me, should be approved, and that the Vice-Admiral should be informed of the high sense entertained by Her Majesty's Government of the tact and ability he has shown while acting as Commander-in-chief of the combined squadrons.

I have much pleasure in adding that the good conduct of the crews of the Queen's ships whilst forming part of the international fleet in Austrian waters has also been a source of satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, testifying as it does not only to the efficient discipline maintained by Her Majesty's naval officers, but also to the steadiness of the men themselves under circumstances of unusual character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 16.

Baron Haymerle to M. de Hengelmüller.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, December 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 1, 1880.

CONSUL-GENERAL LIPPICH questioned about the opportunity of an immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno territory, reports that he does not see any particular difficulty in such a course, order being re-established and weather favourable. Absolute maintenance of tranquillity, however, could only be expected on condition of its being guaranteed by Dervish Pasha.

Communicate this to Lord Granville, and inform him that we are ready to ask the Porte to give instructions in that sense to Dervish Pasha, and that in case of a satisfactory answer, we shall order our own Commissioner to take part in the work of delimitation.

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* Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 637), Sir H. Elliot (No. 781), Lord Odo Russell (No. 761), and Mr. Plunkett (No. 608).

No. 17.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, December 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 1er Décembre*, 1880.

LE Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Kossovo nous télégraphie que les populations Musulmanes des villages de Bodka et de Pola, dépendant de Kolachini-Bala et situés dans la zone neutre de la ligne-frontière, se trouvent en proie à une vive inquiétude à la suite de la nouvelle d'un projet d'attaque attribué aux Monténégrins.

Veuillez prier le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'engager le Gouvernement Monténégrin, par l'entremise de son Représentant à Cettigné, à adopter les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre sur la frontière en attendant l'achèvement des travaux de la Commission de Délimitation.

No. 18.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December 1*, 1880.

I HAVE to report to your Lordship my arrival in Ragusa. As several of the Commissioners were absent during the transfer of Dulcigno, the favourable opportunity for completing the demarcation of that portion of the frontier has been lost, and it would now seem better to wait until the whole of the frontier between Montenegro and Albania can be marked out.

If, however, it be decided to mark out the Dulcigno portion at once, may I and the other Commissioners be furnished with precise and authoritative definitions of the line in question?

The French Commissioner is believed to be still in France.

No. 19.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December 1*, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 46 of to-day

According to the best information I could procure there were from five to eight Albanians killed and twenty wounded, and on the Turkish side from twenty to forty killed and wounded.

The Turkish staff put the number at forty. My despatch, with fuller details, should reach your Lordship on the 4th instant.

No. 20.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2, 3 P.M.)

(No. 372.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 2*, 1880, 2 P.M.

NEITHER French Ambassador nor German Ambassador had received instructions yesterday respecting the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier between the sea and lake.

Can you telegraph to Berlin and Paris to hasten instructions?

Austrian Ambassador has no positive instructions, but expects them.

No. 21.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 810.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 2*, 1880.

FOLLOWING from Mr. Goschen:—

[See No. 20.]

Request that instructions may be given soon, as Mr. Goschen is leaving next week, and it is very desirable that matters should be settled before he leaves.

No. 22.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 2*, 1880, 2 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 851 of the 1st instant.

Instructions have already been sent to Italian Admiral to part company when Commander-in-chief gives the signal. They will now be repeated. Italian ships will proceed to Naples.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 808.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 2*, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE states that Austrian Consul-General at Scutari reports that he sees no particular difficulty in immediate delimitation of Dulcigno frontier, order being re-established and weather favourable, if Dervish Pasha guarantees absolute maintenance of tranquillity. Austrian Government are ready to ask Porte to instruct Dervish in this sense, and in case of satisfactory answer, will order Austrian Commissioner to take part in work.

Her Majesty's Government have no objection if other Powers agree,‡ [and have sent instructions to this effect to Mr. Goschen.]

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2, 8·30 P.M.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 2*, 1880, 6 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 852.

Baron Haymerle is willing to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate upon the best mode of settling the Montenegrin frontier, but he thinks it very desirable that the request of the Prince should be complied with, and that the frontier between the lake and the sea should be marked out at once.

Though this line would not have an international character till confirmed by a Convention, it would practically settle the question as regards that portion, and put an end to agitation or excitement about it.

The accounts received from Cettinjé state that it is considered that the Commissioners can carry out their work without risk, but Baron Haymerle thinks that Dervish Pasha should also be called on to provide for their security from his side of the frontier.

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* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 658).
† Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 859), Mr. Plunkett (No. 943), Mr. Goschen (No. 807), and Sir A. Paget (No. 853).
‡ Ended at "agree" to Mr. Goschen.

No. 25.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 766.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 2, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed by M. de Hengelmüller that Baron Haymerle has telegraphed that the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari has reported, in reply to an inquiry as to the practicability of proceeding at once to trace the new frontier district between the Sea and Lake of Scutari, that he does not see any particular difficulty, order being re-established and the weather favourable, but that absolute maintenance of tranquillity could only be expected if it were guaranteed by Dervish Pasha. The Austro-Hungarian Government are stated to be prepared to ask the Porte to instruct Dervish Pasha to give the necessary guarantee; and, if a satisfactory answer should be received, to direct their Commissioner to hold himself ready to take part in the work of delimitation.

If the other Powers agree, Her Majesty's Government have no objection to send similar instructions to the British Commissioner, and Mr. Goschen has been told this by telegraph, in order that he may be prepared if he should find that his Austrian colleague has received the contemplated instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 767. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 2, 1880.*

MR. GOSCHEN having reported that the German Ambassador had not received instructions yesterday as to the delimitation of the new frontier in the direction of the Boyana, I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to urge that the instructions may be sent without delay, as it would be desirable that the matter should be settled before Mr. Goschen's departure from Constantinople, which is expected to take place next week.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 27.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 359. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Athens of M. de Radowitz. He has not been charged by his Government with any special communication to the Greek Government, but has privately and unofficially represented to them the importance of refraining from any precipitate action, and of awaiting patiently the course of events.

M. Coumoundouros informed him that Greece was too far committed now to put a stop to the preparations she had felt it her duty to adopt in order to take possession of the ceded provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

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* Identic to Sir H. Elliot (No. 782), Sir A. Paget (No. 853), Mr. Plunkett (No. 613); and to Mr. Goschen (No. 734), with the following substituted for the last paragraph:—"If the other Powers agree, Her Majesty's Government have no objection to send similar instructions to the British Commissioner, and I have informed your Excellency of this by telegraph in order that you may be prepared if you should find that your Austrian colleague has received the contemplated instructions."

† Also to Lord Lyons (No. 1531).

No. 28.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 24, 1880.*

ON the steamer, which the Government hired to bring mules from Cyprus, were 107 mules, purchased by subscription among the inhabitants of Cyprus, and sent as a present to the Greek people.

By the same boat there arrived a large silk Greek flag, embroidered by girls in Cyprus, also presented to Greece. It bears the inscription "Cyprus, a small present to Mother Greece."

A certain number of the inhabitants of Cyprus were desirous to volunteer for military service in Greece, but they have not been accepted, nor have those who are anxious to enlist from various other parts of the Levant and the Danube Principalities.

The Government, much embarrassed by the expense connected with these offers, have sent a Circular to their Consuls to discourage, as far as they are able, the flocking of these heterogeneous enthusiasts to Greece, as, on their arrival here, and their services not being accepted, they expect to be maintained, and sent home again, at the public expense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 29.

E *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)*

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 24, 1880.*

THE answer of the Chamber to His Majesty's speech on its opening was delivered to the King yesterday, only those members, drawn by lot to present it, who are supporters of the present Ministry, going with it to the Palace; the supporters of M. Tricoupi's Ministry, who formed one-half of the members chosen to deliver the answer, having declined to be present on the occasion.

In answer to the address, the King said:—

"I am glad to hear that the Representatives of the nation, duly appreciating the critical circumstances of our beloved country, will readily tender their aid in obtaining a complete and (under the circumstances) unavoidable military organization of the country.

"In view of the critical state of things, and of the urgency of the circumstances (under which we are placed), I recommend again to the Representatives of the Hellenic nation to occupy themselves urgently and by preference about the Bills concerning the army and navy, and all others connected with military and naval affairs."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 30.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter, without any signatures, which was left at this Legation by two Mussulman inhabitants of Silistria (Bulgaria) whilst I happened to be out.

Their names were Ahmed Idrisoglu, Deputy of the Bulgarian Assembly, and Abdurrahman, and they gave themselves out to be specially sent here by their co-religionists for the purpose of transmitting to the Governments Signatory of the Treaty of Berlin, this their petition.

I am told that they produced to one of my colleagues and to the Turkish Minister here, a long roll of credentials bearing the signatures of a great many Mahommedan inhabitants of their district.

Having ascertained that the other Ministers who have received this petition in a

similar way have reported the circumstances to their Governments, I consider it necessary to forward a copy of this document to your Lordship.

These two Delegates have returned to Silistria, and I had no opportunity to explain to them the irregularity of their proceeding, and the Turkish Minister tells me he tried in vain to dissuade them from adopting this mode of forwarding their petition, and that they said that sending it through the foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople would entail loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Mussulman Petition from Silistria, addressed to Mr. White.

M. le Ministre,

LES Soussignés ont l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence qu'ils ont reçu de la population Musulmane de la Province de Silistrie (Bulgarie) le mandat de lui exposer en sa qualité de Représentant d'une Grande Puissance Signataire du Traité de Berlin, la situation faite à cette population par suite de l'extension aux Musulmans du service militaire en Bulgarie. Aux 60,000 habitants opprimés qui composent cette population se joignent celle de toute la Bulgarie Orientale et même les Musulmans en général de la Principauté.

Notre démarche, M. le Ministre, a pour but de solliciter de la bienveillante intervention des Grandes Puissances une faveur qui, par son caractère provisoire, ne saurait modifier en rien les obligations imposées par la Constitution Bulgare a tous les habitants sans distinction de race ni de religion.

Nous ne venons pas aujourd'hui parler des vexations et des outrages infligés à notre race par la nouvelle Administration de notre pays. Les Rapports officiels et les journaux ont déjà porté à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement nos souffrances, tels que privation de toute sécurité, violation de nos domiciles, attentats contre l'honneur de nos familles, outrages à notre religion, entraves apportées à l'exercice de celle-ci, transformation de nos édifices religieux en dépôts d'armes, et en corps de garde, et, enfin, profanation de nos cimetières. Pour remédier à tous ces maux, nous avons pleine confiance dans la haute justice et dans les sentiments d'humanité des Grandes Puissances, dont nous continuons à espérer les bienfaits.

Nous voulons parler cette fois de la conscription militaire qui vient d'être décrétée et étendue à nos coreligionnaires, et dont l'application s'effectue à cette heure sans égard aux strictes dispositions de la loi et en violation de tout ce que nous avons de plus sacré.

Certes, nous n'avons pas la prétention de nous soustraire à cette mesure générale qui constitue un des principes de l'égalité que le Congrès de Berlin a octroyés à toutes les races sur le sol de la Bulgarie, mais n'ayant pu jusqu'ici bénéficier d'aucun de ces principes qui ont consacré nos droits en même temps et au même titre qu'ils ont prescrit nos devoirs dans le pays, il n'est pas raisonnable que le devoir de servir dans l'armée Bulgare nous soit imposé avant que nous n'ayons joui des droits qui nous sont acquis. D'ailleurs, la déplorable situation où nous nous trouvons actuellement ne doit-elle pas être prise en considération dans cette circonstance? Les lourdes charges que nous a imposées la dernière et désastreuse guerre, l'émigration en masse que nous avons dû subir pendant et après la campagne, et tant d'autres malheurs que nous avons supportés depuis plusieurs années, ont causé la perte totale de nos fortunes, sans parler de la diminution considérable que notre population a éprouvée durant ces fatales périodes.

Ceux qui sont rentrés dans leurs foyers n'ont pas pu reprendre à temps leurs travaux des champs et leurs autres occupations. Ce que nous avons pu néanmoins cultiver et produire, n'a pas été même suffisant aux premiers besoins de notre existence.

Nous sommes donc encore à l'heure qu'il est dépourvus des biens, des moyens de la vie, et ceux qui meurent de faim dans nos campagnes s'élèvent encore à un grand nombre. Les considérations qui précèdent ne sont-elles pas autant de raisons légitimes pour espérer un ajournement à la conscription militaire? Y a-t-il un peuple plus éprouvé que nous autres pour ne pas mériter un soulagement dans ses malheurs?

Nous avons sollicité l'année dernière de Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre, par l'intermédiaire de nos Députés, de vouloir bien nous accorder un terme de dix ans pour notre exemption du service militaire.

Mais notre démarche n'a abouti à aucun résultat, puisque la décision d'assujettir les Musulmans à ce service vient d'être mise en exécution. Ce terme que nous avons sollicité du Gouvernement Bulgare a été accordé à la population de la Dobroudja par le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Royale Prince Charles, et les habitants de cette contrée se trouvent, grâce à cette générosité, en position de se recueillir paisiblement et de remédier aux maux qu'ils avaient partagés avec nous. Ne serait-il pas assez juste de traiter les Musulmans de la Bulgarie sur le même pied que la Roumanie traite ses nouveaux sujets de la Dobroudja? Un délai pareil est d'autant plus nécessaire que, pendant sa durée, nos enfants, qui ne parlent pas aujourd'hui un mot de la langue Bulgare, pour comprendre les commandements et les ordres des officiers, s'appliquent d'un côté à l'habituer à cette langue, devenue officielle dans notre pays, en fréquentant les écoles, et que d'un autre côté la population Musulmane en général, en reprenant ses travaux, aurait réparé tous ses malheurs présents et serait en état de contribuer à toutes les obligations. Refuser ce délai, ce sera contraindre les Musulmans à quitter leur patrie, car dès le début de la mise en exécution du Décret qui nous appelle à servir sous les armes, une grande partie de la population s'est préparée à émigrer en Turquie.

Dans le cas où les Grandes Puissances ne croiraient pas devoir intervenir pour nous obtenir ce délai, nous les supplions de faire différer au moins de quelques mois l'application de la conscription à notre égard, afin que nous fussions mis en état de quitter définitivement la Bulgarie sans nous exposer aux rigueurs de l'hiver qui commence.

Confiant dans les sentiments d'humanité de votre Excellence, nous la prions humblement de porter notre démarche à la haute connaissance de son Gouvernement, en l'engageant en même temps à y faire droit et à avoir compassion du sort d'un peuple tant éprouvé par les événements.

Veuillez bien, &c.

No. 31.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 3.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, December 2, 1880.*

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of yesterday, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour has been informed, by telegraph and letter, of the nature of the instructions sent to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh with regard to the proposed disposal of the ships at present in the Gulf of Cattaro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 32.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 3, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 806 of the 1st instant.

German Government agrees to your Lordship's proposal respecting departure of the fleet from Cattaro, and will send instructions to their Naval Commander to depart with the British Admiral and accompany him to Malta, or any other place agreed upon.

No. 33.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 3, 1880.*

GERMAN Admiralty has confidentially informed Foreign Office that German ship "Victoria" must refit without loss of time, and on parting company with Admiral Commander-in-chief, may have to proceed to Trieste instead of Malta or elsewhere.

No. 34.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 3, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 808 of the 2nd instant.

Instructions will be sent to-day to Count Hatzfeldt in the sense proposed by your Lordship and Baron Haymerle respecting immediate delimitation of Dulcigno frontier.

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 3, 1880.*

THE answer to your Lordship's proposal about the separation of the fleets has been sent to Count Károlyi.

After thanking your Lordship for the manner in which the demonstration had been combined, and Admiral Seymour for the way in which it had been carried out, it states that the demonstration having been terminated by the cession of Dulcigno, if it is desired that the different squadrons shall separate simultaneously, Austrian Commander will be directed to go to sea with the others, and receive from Admiral Seymour the signal to part [?], after which they will proceed to the destination that may be fixed for them by the Emperor.

No. 36.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 3, 1880.*

DULCIGNO frontier. Your telegram No. 853 of the 2nd instant.

Instructions will be sent to Count Corti in same sense as those sent to Mr. Goschen.

No. 37.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3, 2 P.M.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) , *December 3, 1880, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs now informs me that the formal receipt for the ceded district has not yet been given to the Turkish authorities, as the Turks are in possession of the village of Leskovce. This village, which is marked in my map, is not in the Dulcigno district, but the Montenegrin Commander-in-chief assured me when on the spot that his troops had taken possession of the whole of the territory which was to be handed over except small portion mentioned in my telegram to your Lordship quoted above.

Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs adds that he thinks that delivery of this village will not be delayed.

No. 38.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 3, 1880, 1·35 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 665 of the 1st instant.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs will let me know as soon as possible the place to which the French ships will go when they leave the Adriatic. He has requested that instructions may be sent to the Admiral at Cattaro to be ready to start at the same time as the other squadrons, as soon as Admiral Seymour gives the signal.

No. 39.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3, 4 P.M.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 3, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 129 of to-day.

French ships will go to Toulon when they leave the Adriatic.

No. 40.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 3, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 659 of to-day about Montenegrin frontier.

French Government have been expecting an answer to the notes inclosed in my despatch No. 1104 of the 30th ultimo. Shall I propose to them the arrangement in your telegram No. 852 to Sir H. Elliot?

No. 41.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 861.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 3, 1880, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 857 of the 1st, have the Austrian Government told you where their ships are going, or authorized their Commander to tell Admiral Seymour? Answers received from Rome, Paris, and Berlin.

No. 42.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 783. Extender.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 3, 1880.

I SHOULD be glad to learn from your Excellency, with reference to the proposal which you were directed to make by my despatch No. 781 of the 1st instant, whether you have been informed by the Austro-Hungarian Government of the port to which they intend to send their ships on leaving Cattaro, or whether they have authorized their Naval Commander to give the information to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour.

Answers to the proposal have been received by telegraph from Berlin, Rome, and Paris.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 43.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 3, 1880.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the accompanying decypher of a telegram from Lord Odo Russell, containing the answer of the German Government to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government respecting the combined squadrons parting company;* and I am to request that in laying the same before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty you will suggest to their Lordships that the substance of it should be communicated by telegraph to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* No. 32.

No. 44.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to my previous letter of this day, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of the decypher of a telegram just received from Lord Odo Russell, stating that the German vessel "Victoria" may be compelled, instead of accompanying the British Admiral, to go to Trieste to refit.*

I am to suggest that this information should also be communicated by telegraph to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 45.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, November* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting several acts of brigandage that have been committed in the districts of Zagori, Metzovo, and Conitza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Prevesa, November* 27, 1880.

IN reporting the following cases of brigandage that have been committed between the 24th September last and the 30th ultimo, in the districts of Zagori, Conitza, and Metzovo, I regret to have to acquaint your Excellency that, according to information received from Mr. Kypriotis, the rural population appears to suffer almost as much from the regular and irregular forces sent to pursue the brigands as it does from the latter; and it is only within the present month that the former have been brought face to face with the brigands. As to the result of the only two encounters that have taken place between them, it has unfortunately in both instances proved disastrous to the Government arms.

ACTS OF BRIGANDAGE.

Zagori.

1. The brigands who had surrounded the village of Liaskovitzion, as reported in my despatch of the 1st ultimo, retired after receiving 900 liras in cash and in goods. It is said that they also burnt a house and two huts.

2. *October* 12.—Twenty-five brigands entered Nayades, where it is said they plundered three houses.

3. *October* 12.—The same band proceeded to Flamborari, levied black-mail and burnt a house.

4. *October* 15.—100 brigands plundered the village of Papinghou.

5. Between the 11th and 16th October the zaptiehs sacked the village of Nayades.

6. *October* 24.—Thirteen brigands surrounded the village church at Kavalári during mass, and extorted money from the principal inhabitants.

7. *October* 30.—A band of brigands proceeded to Dobra (about three hours distant from Janina), entered several houses, and extorted as much money as possible from the inhabitants. They also set fire to a shop, and carried off one prisoner.

* No. 33.

Metzovo.

8. *October* 8.—Eighty brigands engaged a body of troops escorting a party of travellers at Miliá, and killed three of the soldiers.

Conitza.

9. *September* 25.—Daveli and his band proceeded to Krispa, burnt down a house, and extorted 50 liras. He then proceeded to—

10. Molista, and extorted 170 liras, and then to—

11. Castaniá, where he levied 150 more.

12. *October* 19.—At Kerássovo a Mussulman named Mouslembey, and four of his men, were killed by brigands.

With respect to the encounters above alluded to, I have already had the honour to communicate to your Excellency, in my despatch dated the 20th instant, the result of the fight outside Samarina between the troops and Daveli's band, so that at present I have only to report the result of the second, which took place near Furka, Metzovo, between 100 irregulars and the same band. Seventeen irregulars, including their leader, Nedjimbey, were killed on that occasion, several prisoners were taken, and the rest dispersed. As to the loss sustained by the brigands, it is of course unknown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 46.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 34. Political.)

My Lord, *At Sea, November* 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that having, on the morning of the 25th instant, received intelligence that Dervish Pasha had entered Dulcigno and had invited the Montenegrins to take immediate possession of that district, I at once proceeded to Antivari, and from there to Kunia, where I met the Montenegrin General, Bozo Petrovich, who was just advancing to take possession of the ceded district.

I accompanied the General during the operation, and entered the town of Dulcigno with him.

The following is the history of the proceedings, as ascertained on the spot:—

On the 22nd instant Dervish Pasha, who had been for several days encamped with his troops at Biela (on the Boyana), advanced towards Dulcigno by the Scutari road. He encountered the Albanians at a place where the road skirts the foot of a spur of the Mazura range.

The Albanians opened fire on the Turks and the Turks replied, at first firing high, hoping to intimidate their opponents.

Several Turkish soldiers having been shot, they at last fired on the Albanians, and in a very short time put them to flight.

The accounts as to the number of killed and wounded on both sides are very conflicting, and at first there was some scepticism as to the reality of the fight, but I have satisfied myself on this point, and I believe that the casualties on the Turkish side are between twenty to forty killed and wounded, and about eight killed and twenty wounded on the Albanian side.

The actual attacking force was 8 battalions, and the number of the Albanians was about 1,200. It is said that the killed and wounded are entirely amongst the Scutarines and mountaineers, the people of Dibre and Prisrend having fled at once.

Dervish Pasha at once advanced to Dulcigno, and from that place immediately forwarded a letter to the Montenegrin General, then at Antivari, inviting him to send a Delegate to Kunia, to enter into a Convention for the cession of Dulcigno

The Delegates named were Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, for Turkey, and M. Matanovič for Montenegro.

They met at Kunia on the evening of the 24th instant, and Bedri Bey at once stated that it was absolutely necessary that the occupation should commence on Friday the 26th at latest. This the Montenegrins assented to, though it put them in a great difficulty, as the whole of their troops between the lake and the sea had been disbanded, and they were completely taken by surprise from the rapidity of Dervish Pasha's movements.

The Convention was concluded on the 25th instant; a copy is inclosed.

At noon on Friday the 26th instant, the time agreed on for the commencement of operations, the Montenegrin General, Bozo Petrovich, was at Kunia, and had only 800 men assembled.

The military movements mentioned in the Convention were duly carried out, and call for no particular remarks; everything went well, and the Turks appeared to fulfil their part of the Convention.

According to the Convention, the whole district should have been occupied by the Montenegrins at 6 P.M. on Saturday the 27th instant. There was some little delay, owing, I think, to the difficulty in getting together the Montenegrin troops at such short notice, but on Sunday morning next M. Matanović was sent to Dervish Pasha with the formal receipt for the district.

Finding that the Turks still occupied a point from 1,000 to 2,000 yards south of the bridge of St. Giorgio (a wooden bridge over the stream which runs from Lake Sas into the Boyana), M. Matanović did not deliver the receipt, as he deemed that the Turks had not fully evacuated the district.

Up to late on Sunday night the receipt had not been delivered, but the Montenegrin General assured me that with this slight exception the whole of the transfer had been effected, and he deemed the incident of no importance, but as due simply to a misunderstanding of the precise direction of the new frontier, which would be immediately cleared up.

I myself think it is very likely that M. Matanović was mistaken, but I avoided any interference in the matter.

As far as I could judge, the inhabitants of the district and town of Dulcigno acquiesced entirely in the change of rule; on the very day of occupation everything was going on quietly; the people were working in their fields and the bazaar in Dulcigno was open as usual.

It appears that Dervish Pasha made considerable efforts to induce the Mahommedan families to quit the district with him, but up to the present time only fifteen families have left.

Bozo Petrovich was received, when entering Dulcigno, by the Mahommedan inhabitants in a by no means unfriendly manner, and though the Montenegrin rule over Mahommedans is naturally very unsympathetic, it appears to me to be, on the whole, just and equitable, and to be recognized as such by the Mahommedans themselves.

Considering the extremely short notice given, and the natural difficulties to be encountered, the rapidity of the concentration of the Montenegrin troops was remarkable. On Friday, at noon, only 800 men were assembled, but by Saturday evening between 4,000 and 5,000 men were at the field of operation.

Reports from Scutari state that the Albanian movement has completely collapsed, as far as that place is concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Convention relative to the Cession of Dulcigno by the Porte to Montenegro, November 25, 1880.

LE Délégué Ottoman et le Délégué Monténégrin réunis à Kounia et ayant trouvé leurs pleins pouvoirs en bonne et due forme, sont convenus de ce qui suit:—

ARTICLE I.

La ville et le district de Dulcigno seront pacifiquement et régulièrement remis au Monténégro par le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

ARTICLE II.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin s'engage à respecter les droits, la vie, et l'honneur des habitants qui ne voudraient pas sortir avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes des localités cédées au Monténégro, de même qu'à respecter les propriétés des habitants qui resteraient ou qui ne resteraient pas, se conformant à ce propos à ce qui a été établi par le Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE III.

Une Convention spéciale Turco-Monténégrine réglera la question de l'évaluation des biens de l'Etat ou fondations pieuses (vacoufs) aussi bien que la quote-part de la Dette Publique de l'Empire que le Monténégro doit supporter conformément au Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin reconnaît valables tous les Actes émanés par les Tribunaux et les autorités Ottomanes dans les localités cédées.

ARTICLE V.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin facilitera le transfert des habitants qui voudraient émigrer hors de la principauté.

ARTICLE VI.

Les armes et les munitions se trouvant dans le district de Dulcigno et celles restées entre les mains de la population appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman qui ne pourraient pas être transportées jusqu'au jour de la remise, seront mises en dépôt et confiées à la garde d'un officier Ottoman avec une escouade de soldats suffisante pour garder ce matériel; cet officier sera chargé aussi, de concert avec un officier Monténégrin, de faciliter le transfert des émigrés ainsi que de leur richesse mobilière.

ARTICLE VII.

Pendant l'opération de la remise les troupes Ottomanes devront disperser tout rassemblement des Albanais armés qui troubleraient l'ordre et s'opposeraient à la marche des troupes Monténégrines.

ARTICLE VIII.

Le Commandant-en-chef de la division de Scutari-d'Albanie s'engage à empêcher tout acte des sujets Ottomans tendant à troubler l'ordre et à menacer la sécurité dans les nouvelles possessions Monténégrines et toute agression pendant l'opération de la remise. Après l'occupation les deux Gouvernements, se conformant aux obligations internationales, prendront de concert les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher leurs ressortissants respectifs de créer des troubles en dehors de leur frontière.

ARTICLE IX.

Dans le cas ou quelques maisons se trouveraient abandonnées et fermées par des propriétaires qui auraient émigré avant l'occupation des Monténégrins, ces maisons ne pourraient être ouvertes jusqu'au retour de leurs propriétaires.

ARTICLE X.

La remise régulière et pacifique de la ville et du district de Dulcigno devra avoir lieu dans les trente heures à partir de la mise en marche des troupes Monténégrines de Kounia, et s'effectuera de la manière suivante:—

Détails techniques de la remise:—

Les troupes Monténégrines réunies à Kounia se mettront en marche le Vendredi, 26 Novembre, 1880 (N.S.), à midi précise, en une ou deux colonnes.

La première colonne suivra la route d'Antivari-Dulcigno, et passant par le Majoura; quand les troupes Monténégrines seront arrivées à cinquante pas des deux retranchements occupés par les troupes Ottomanes et se trouvant sur la Majoura à droite et à gauche du chemin d'Antivari-Dulcigno, les troupes Turques se retireront vers Dulcigno, en suivant le chemin qui conduit sur la hauteur du moulin-à-vent (Bjela Gora). Les troupes Monténégrines chargées d'occuper Dulcigno les suivront par la même route en gardant entre elles et les troupes Turques la distance susmentionnée. Quand les troupes Monténégrines seront à la distance de cinquante pas du moulin-à-vent les troupes Ottomanes se retireront pour rejoindre leur quartier-général qui se trouve sur les collines à l'est de la ville de Dulcigno. Le Commandant Monténégrin enverra un ou plusieurs détachements vers les collines où se trouve le quartier-général Turc et occupera en même temps le moulin, la forteresse, et la ville de Dulcigno.

Les détachements Monténégrins arrivés à cinquante pas du quartier-général Turc, l'armée Impériale quittera les collines, se mettra en marche sur le chemin Dulcigno-Scutari et passera la nuit du 26 au 27 Novembre sur les hauteurs de Chinguerk; les troupes Monténégrines les suivront jusqu'à Pistol et en occuperont les hauteurs.

Les troupes Turques se trouvant dans cette dernière localité l'évacueront dès que les Monténégrins seront arrivés à la distance déjà nommée, et rejoindront le quartier-général Ottoman.

Immédiatement après le départ de la Majoura pour Dulcigno des troupes Turques et Monténégrines, comme il vient d'être dit ci-dessus, le Commandant Monténégrin enverra une troupe suffisante pour occuper les retranchements qui se trouvent sur la crête de la Majoura.

Les troupes Turques se trouvant dans ces retranchements les quitteront dès que les Monténégrins seront arrivés à la distance établie précédemment, et descendront à Pistol pour se joindre aux troupes qui s'y trouvent.

Les Monténégrins occuperont dans la journée du Vendredi tous les retranchements de la Majoura ainsi que Cerveni Kamen.

Le lendemain, 27 Novembre, à 9 heures du matin, les troupes Monténégrines se dirigeront vers Chinquerk et les troupes Impériales se retireront vers Scutari pour se mettre dans la même journée derrière la ligne-frontière acceptée par les Puissances. En même temps les troupes Monténégrines prendront possession de la rive droite de la Bojana.

Vendredi, à midi, le Commandant Monténégrin pourra occuper les localités de Mala et Velia Gorana, dans lesquelles il n'y a que les seuls habitants; ou bien attendra pour prendre possession de ces deux points la journée du lendemain, dans laquelle son Excellence Dervish Pacha, sur un avis que lui ferait parvenir Vendredi au soir le Commandant Monténégrin, enverra un détachement des troupes Ottomanes pour occuper les deux localités en question et le remettre aux troupes Monténégrines.

La remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno accomplie, une déclaration de prise de possession sera délivrée au Commandant-en-chef de la division de Scutari par le Commandant-en-chef des troupes Monténégrines.

Sur la demande du Délégué Monténégrin son collègue Ottoman enverra à Kounia, Vendredi, à 10 heures du matin, deux officiers Turcs, qui resteront avec le Délégué Monténégrin jusqu'à la fin de la remise.

Fait en double à Kounia, Jeudi soir, le 25 Novembre, 1880 (n.s.).

Pour le Commandant-en-chef de la Division de Scutari-Albanie,
(Signé) BEDRI, *Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major.*

Pour le Commandant-en-chef des Troupes Monténégrines,
(Signé) NICOLAS MATANOVICH, *Aide-de-camp de Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro.*

No. 47.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *At Sea, between Antivari and Ragusa, November 30, 1880.*

WHEN the Montenegrins took possession of the district of Dulcigno only the Russian and Italian Commissioners were present, in addition to myself and the Montenegrin Commissioner.

The Turkish Commissioner was with the Turkish troops as Staff Officer; the Austrian Commissioner, I believe, remained at Scutari, and the German Commissioner at Ragusa.

Of the movements of the French Commissioner nothing has been heard; he is believed to be still in France.

Had the Commission been reunited, as I hoped, during the occupation, there would have been an excellent opportunity for making out the frontier-line of the newly-ceded districts; but now that that opportunity has been lost, and as it is apparent that the several Commissioners named cannot have recent instructions, and as the Russian and Italian Commissioners did not deem it proper to remain on the spot, it would, I venture to suggest to your Lordship, be better to await the settlement of the question of the

frontier north of the lake, and to have the whole demarcation carried out together during the next working season.

I am induced to offer this suggestion for the following reasons:—

1. As far as I can ascertain, none of the Commissioners have any authority to deal with the frontier of the ceded district, and no authoritative and binding statement as to what that frontier is. I myself have none; the only definition which I possess is that originally given by Mr. Green. This contains at least two serious technical errors of definition, which will have to be rectified.

Hence it would seem desirable to have a clear and precise definition of the line, in the form of a Convention signed by the Representatives of the Powers.

2. There are some minor points as to the line of frontier which the Turks and Montenegrins can very well arrange between themselves, and could be better arranged in that way during the winter than if the Commission met at once.

3. It is far better that when the Commission takes the field, and all arrangements for out-door work are made, it should proceed at once and complete all that remains to be done; it could not, in any case, work in the mountains at this season of the year.

4. Though at present the weather is extremely fine, and is all that could be desired for out-door work in the plain, yet it is wholly exceptional for this part of the country, and as there must necessarily be a delay of days, or even weeks, in reassembling the Commission, we can hardly expect anything but the usual almost constant rains which prevail here at this time of the year. This would be no sufficient reason for delaying the work if it was one of urgence, but in my opinion, as the actual occasion for reassembling the Commission has passed, it would be better to let the matter settle down for some months.

I am aware that His Highness the Prince of Montenegro desires the immediate demarcation of the ceded district by permanent boundary marks; but perhaps this may be due to a desire to make quite sure of what he has got before treating on the question of the frontier north of the lake.

I would here remark to your Lordship that it is admitted by the Montenegrins themselves that the district of Dulcigno now ceded to them exceeds considerably in value the district of Gusinjé-Plava, for which it is exchanged, without counting the Kuči-Krajna.

As the other Commissioners did not remain at Dulcigno, I have also left for Ragusa, in compliance with your Lordship's telegraphed instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 48.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

E
(No. 1110. Extender.)

My Lord, *Paris, December 3, 1880.*

YESTERDAY morning, in obedience to a telegraphic instruction dated the evening before, I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that I was desired by your Lordship to propose to the French Government that they should name without delay some place or places to which their ships should go from Cattaro, and that thereupon the Commander-in-chief should be authorized to give the signal to part company.

I mentioned also that Malta was the place to which Her Majesty's Government proposed to send the British ships.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of two notes in reply which I have received from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon.

I have already had the honour to communicate the substance of these notes to your Lordship by telegraph, and your Lordship is consequently aware that the Minister of Marine has sent to the Rear-Admiral in command of the French squadron at Cattaro instructions to put to sea as soon as the order to part company shall be given by the Commander-in-chief to the combined squadrons, and that the French squadron will thereupon return to Toulon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 2 Décembre, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS voulez bien me proposer de la part du Cabinet de Londres que le Gouvernement de la République désigne sans retard le lieu auquel devra se rendre la division navale Française en quittant les bouches de Cattaro, et que le Commandant-en-chef de la flotte combinée soit autorisé aussitôt à donner le signal du départ des différentes escadres.

Je m'empresse de demander à mon collègue le Ministre de la Marine de me faire connaître quelle destination il compte assigner aux bâtiments de notre division lorsqu'ils quitteront l'Adriatique, et suivant le désir que vous m'exprimez, j'aurai soin de vous en donner avis sans retard. Je pense, comme Lord Granville, qu'après la remise effective du district de Dulcigno entre les mains des autorités Monténégrines, il convient de ne pas retarder davantage le départ des escadres alliées. Il me semble bon cependant que ce départ ait lieu, autant que possible, simultanément et en vertu d'un accord commun. Je prie donc le Ministre de la Marine d'inviter le Contre-Amiral Lafont à se tenir prêt à appareiller de même que les Commandants des autres nations, dès que l'Amiral Seymour en donnera le signal.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 3 Décembre, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous annoncer que M. le Ministre de la Marine a invité par le télégraphe le Contre-Amiral Lafont à se tenir prêt à appareiller aussitôt que l'ordre de séparation de l'escadre combinée sera donné par le Commandant-en-chef.

Les bâtiments Français reçoivent pour instructions de rentrer au port de Toulon.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

No. 49.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 1112. Confidential.)

Paris, December 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 1105 of the day before yesterday, and No. 1111 of to-day, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the authentic Reports *in extenso* of the recent debates in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies on foreign affairs.*

These debates are not without interest, but they can hardly be said to throw much fresh light upon the state of feeling in France with regard to the foreign relations of the country. They simply confirm the fact, already sufficiently apparent, that at this moment the French shrink, with almost exaggerated apprehension, from any approach to war.

As your Lordship will see, the attacks upon the foreign policy of the Government were based entirely upon allegations that their measures respecting the Eastern question had involved a possibility of France being drawn into hostilities, while the defence of the Government was, in substance, that they had done the very least they could, without breaking up the European concert, and abandoning altogether the position of France in Europe, and that their conduct had diminished, instead of increasing, the risk of war.

The Duc de Broglie, who made the principal speech on the Opposition side in the Senate, defined in the following words the policy which ought, in his opinion, to be that of France:—

"Je crois donc" (he said) "que la politique de neutralité, d'abstention, de recueille-

* Not printed.

ment—je me sers de ce mot qui était consacré dans la langue diplomatique, il y a peu d'années—consistait dans ces deux choses: ne nous attacher qu'à des intérêts exclusivement Français, sérieux, tangibles; s'abstenir de toute poursuite idéale et sentimentale, et dans nos rapports avec l'Europe, employer toute notre action à la concorde, à la paix, puis, garder à notre profit notre liberté complète d'action et surtout d'abstention, le droit d'agir ou de ne pas agir, le droit de rentrer sous tente, pour y rester au milieu de l'agitation qui se fait autour de nous. Voilà les deux points de notre politique nouvelle."

Even the participation of France in the Congress of Berlin in 1878 was objected to by some speakers, but the measures more particularly condemned were the part taken by the French Government in fixing the line of frontier for Greece; the engagement required by M. de Freycinet that the naval demonstration should be extended to the Greek question; and, lastly and chiefly, the naval demonstration itself.

After all the credit claimed for themselves by French statesmen and the French public as the great protectors and advocates of Greece, it is curious to observe the pains taken on the Government side in this debate to point out that the first motion in favour of Greece at the Congress of 1878 was made by England, and to extenuate the share of France in fixing the frontier-line adopted this year.

As regards the present state of the Greek question, the Opposition urged the Government to say distinctly to Greece that, if relying on the hopes which have been given her, she pushes adventurously forward, she must not reckon upon either the French army or the French navy to support her.

On the other hand, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire dwelt on the advice given by him, and, as he stated, by all Europe, to the Greeks to be prudent, patient, and reserved, and not to rush into an enterprise which might be fatal to them.

It is possible that the lengths to which the Opposition went in urging the absolute withdrawal of France from her place in the Councils of Europe, may tend to produce ultimately some revulsion of public feeling; but the immediate result of the debates will not be to encourage the Government to take any prominent or active part in the treatment of the Eastern question.

The general feeling at present is no doubt expressed with sufficient correctness in the order of the day, which was adopted by a large majority (293 to 96) of the Chamber of Deputies at the close of the debate of yesterday, and which runs as follows:—

"La Chambre, confiante dans les déclarations du Gouvernement, et convaincue qu'il saura concilier les droits et les devoirs de la France comme Grande Puissance avec le maintien de la paix que reclame le vœu unanime du Parlement et du pays, passe à l'ordre du jour."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 50.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 4.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, December 4, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of the 2nd instant, acquainting you, for the information of Earl Granville, that Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour had been apprised of the nature of the instructions sent to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh with regard to the proposed disposal of the ships assembled in the Gulf of Cattaro, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform Earl Granville that, in acknowledging the receipt of this communication, Sir Beauchamp Seymour telegraphed as follows:—

"*Buosic, December 3,* 10 A.M.

"(No. 104.)

"French and Italian Rear-Admirals have informed me that they have received their orders to leave Cattaro upon my making the signal to part company.

"When I have received similar intimation from the Representatives of the other three foreign Powers, am I authorized to make the signal to part company, or am I to wait further instructions from the Admiralty?"

2. My Lords caused the following telegram to be dispatched in reply to the above inquiry:—

"(No. 45.) *"Admiralty, December 3, 4·45 P.M.*

"You are authorized to make the signal for parting company on your receiving the intimation from any of the Commanders of the allied squadrons, in accordance with telegram No. 44 (communicating instructions to British Embassies)."

3. With reference to your letters of the 2nd and 3rd instant, transmitting decyphers of telegrams from Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir Augustus Paget respecting the several destinations of the squadrons in the Gulf of Cattaro representing France, Germany, and Italy, my Lords desire me to request that you will inform Earl Granville that, in accordance with his wish, the information contained in these messages was conveyed yesterday by telegraph to Sir Beauchamp Seymour, with the exception that, in consequence of the receipt of Lord Odo Russell's telegram No. 126, to the effect that the "Victoria" would go to Trieste to refit, it was not considered necessary to communicate the former telegram, No. 125, as to the project of her going to Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 51.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 4.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, December 4, 1880.*

WITH reference to my letter of last evening, transmitting the decypher of telegram No. 106 from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit the decypher of telegram No. 107, received this morning.

As it appears that the squadrons of the various Powers will part company to-day, my Lords desire me to request that you will move Earl Granville to inform them whether there is any objection to instructing Sir Beauchamp Seymour to proceed to Malta with Her Majesty's ships under his command.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *December 3, 1880, 11·50 P.M.*

NO. 45 received. The Commanders of the French, Italian, Russian, and German squadrons have intimated to me their having authority to part company. Austrians have not.

I shall make the signal to-morrow morning [? following my instructions] squadron to part company.

The Austrians are in their own waters.

Am I to wait for further orders or proceed to Malta forthwith?

No. 52.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 4, 1880.*

WHEN I was informed yesterday of the proposed answer about the separation of the fleets, I pointed out that the statement that the Austrian ships would proceed to the destinations decided upon by the Emperor was not what your Lordship had asked, but no expectation was given to me that it would be changed.

Baron Haymerle has, however, just informed me that, being anxious as far as possible to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, he had altered the phrase, which will now run as follows: "In the event of all the squadrons leaving the Bay of

Teodo simultaneously, our ships have orders to accompany them to sea, and to return to their stations in our ports."

The answer retains the statement that the demonstration is terminated.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 662.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 4, 1880, 3·55 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 131.

You are authorized to propose to French Government the arrangements as to Montenegrin frontier referred to in my telegram No. 852 to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 54.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 864.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 4, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Admiral Seymour to give signal to part company and sail for Malta, leaving Austrian ships in their own water.

No. 55.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4, 5 P.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 4, 1880, noon.*

M. COUMOUNDOUROS has requested me very earnestly to ask your Lordship that, as now the presence of the British squadron at Dulcigno appeared no longer necessary, it might be sent to the Piræus. He said it would have an important political effect, and be a great support to this Government at the present crisis. No British ship of war has been stationed here since April last.

Russian squadron is expected immediately at the Piræus.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 56.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 245.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 4, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 243 of the day before yesterday, M. de Giers writes to me that Russian Admiral has been ordered to go with two of his ships to Naples, and the third ship of war will return to her ordinary station at the Pirœus.

No. 57.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 246. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 4, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

M. DE GIERS kept me a long time this afternoon in friendly conversation. He expressed marked satisfaction at the cession of Dulcigno, which, though a small step, he considered very important. He expressed the desire that your Lordship would still try to keep the Powers somehow acting together. He spoke approvingly of your Lordship's speech at Hanley, and of the allusions in it to Russia. He bore witness to the great courtesy with which Sir B. Seymour had treated the Russian Admiral, and stated that the Russian ships would be ready, provided at any time that Her Majesty's Govern-

* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 815), Sir A. Paget (No. 850), Mr. Goschen (No. 812), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 949).

ment might think they would be more useful elsewhere. He spoke warmly of the friendly feeling now existing between England and Russia; he made no allusion to anything closer. The Greek question would soon be the burning one; he hoped that all the Powers would advise the Greeks to be prudent; they ought to take example from the Prince of Montenegro, who had so honourably followed the wishes of the Powers.

I said to him that I thought that Her Majesty's Government, although steadily recommending prudence, hesitated about giving special advice to Greece until they knew what the Powers were prepared to do in case she abided by it.

No. 58.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 248.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 4, 1880, 7 P.M.*

M. DE GIERS told me that he has just telegraphed to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to agree with his colleagues respecting immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier. M. de Giers added to me that Russia had no idea to press at this moment the delimitation of the line beyond the lake.

In the answer telegraphed to your Lordship in my No. 236 of the 29th ultimo, his Excellency had only wished to reserve the principle that there were other points besides the Dulcigno frontier to be discussed at the proper time.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1532. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 4, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1104 inclosing a copy of a note from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, as to the advisableness or the practicability of proceeding at once with the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier between the sea and lake.

I now inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir H. Elliot, informing his Excellency that I have intimated to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it would probably be best to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, after communication with the Representatives at Scutari, to deliberate upon the best mode of settling the boundary.*

Your Excellency is authorized to propose to the French Government, for their concurrence, the arrangement above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 4, 1880.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of to-day, and I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Lord Granville is of opinion that Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour should be authorized to give the signal to part company and proceed to Malta, leaving the Austrian Commander in his own waters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 61.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 5.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, December 4, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of

* To Sir H. Elliot, No. 772, November 30, 1880.

a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated 4th December, 6·45 P.M., at Baosic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Baosic, December 4, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government has sent orders for their Commodore to leave Cattaro with allied fleet.

Everything ready for departure. May I make the signal for parting company, and proceed with British squadron to Malta?

No. 62.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 5.)

Admiralty, December 5, 1880.

THE Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to inclose herein a copy of a telegram from Sir Beauchamp Seymour, reporting his intended departure from Cattaro, and the destinations of the squadrons of the various European Powers.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Baosic, December 4, 1880, 11·30 P.M.*

NO. 49 * received. I sail to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock, for Malta. French squadron proceed to Toulon; Italian to Brindisi; Russian to Naples; German corvette to Malta. "Falcon" remains Brindisi until Tuesday, "Condor" until Thursday, to collect mails, then join me at Malta.

No. 63.

Vice-Consul Summa to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

Scutari, le 4 Décembre, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI l'honneur de soumettre à votre Seigneurie, que d'après mes informations, puisées d'ailleurs à des sources dignes de foi, les pertes des troupes Impériales Ottomanes dans le combat contre les Albanais s'élèvent à 60 tués et 50 blessés; celles des Albanais à 13 tués et 15 blessés.

No. 64.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 5, 1880, 4 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the French Ambassador at Constantinople in the sense of your telegram to Sir H. Elliot No. 852 about Dulcigno frontier.

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* Instruction to Sir B. Seymour "to make the signal to part company."

No. 65.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 563. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1880.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 910 of yesterday, I called at the Foreign Department and told Baron Jomini that Her Majesty's Government were desirous that Russia should advise the Prince of Montenegro to be prepared to act, in case Dervish Pasha should suddenly announce that he is master of the situation. I said Her Majesty's Government also proposed urging the Prince in this sense, as it would be most unfortunate if, when the Turkish Commander said he was ready, the Montenegrin Commander should not be prepared at once to take possession of the territory which would thus be offered.

Baron Jomini showed considerable disinclination to assume the responsibility of recommending the Prince of Montenegro to occupy Dulcigno, even when Dervish Pasha announces that he is master of the position, unless at the same time the Powers give some security to His Highness that he shall not suffer hereafter for following their advice.

I remained some time with Baron Jomini, urging, as strongly as I could, the importance of the Prince of Montenegro not raising difficulties which might give to some of the more lukewarm of the Powers an excuse for throwing over the whole question. I reminded his Excellency that all Her Majesty's Government asked of Russia was that she should urge the Prince, over whom she had so much greater an influence than was possessed by any other of the Powers, to have everything prepared in the event of the Turks declaring themselves ready to hand over Dulcigno to His Highness. If, after having declared weeks ago that he was prepared to advance, His Highness were now found unprepared to act, the effect produced might be fatal to the continuance of united action on this, as well as on the other important questions which still remained to be settled.

I regret to say Baron Jomini did not seem to attach as much importance to my arguments, of which, however, he acknowledged the truth, as he did to the danger of encouraging the Prince to run risks from which the Powers would not promise to secure him.

The Baron's contention always has been, and is, that the Powers may defend the Prince at Dulcigno, but if, in revenge for what he has done there, the Albanians attack his troops beyond the lake, the fleets cannot do him any good.

Baron Jomini said he would refer the matter to Livadia and let me have an answer as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 66.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 565. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 26, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 563 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in a private note and extract of which I have the honour to inclose, Baron Jomini writes to me that M. de Giers' answer from Livadia is to the effect that His Majesty approves the observations made by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to Mr. Goschen, that would be unjust to leave to Montenegro the responsibility of the consequences which may result from the occupation of Dulcigno. Russia therefore hopes that, in calling upon Prince Nicholas to occupy the territory, the Powers will continue the necessary control and protection for insuring the loyal and pacific execution of their decisions.

Baron Jomini adds that, as it appears from the public telegrams, since received, that the Prince of Montenegro has accepted the invitation of Dervish Pasha to send a Commissary to arrange the conditions of the "remise," it is not from His Highness that difficulties would seem likely to arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

(Extrait.) *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Novembre*, 1880.

JE viens de recevoir de Livadia la réponse à la demande que vous m'avez adressée quant aux démarches à faire auprès du Prince de Monténégro.

M. de Giers me mande que l'Empereur a approuvé l'observation présentée par M. Onou à Mr. Goschen qu'il serait injuste de laisser au Monténégro la responsabilité des conséquences qui pourraient résulter de l'occupation de Dulcigno.

Le Cabinet Impérial espère donc qu'en mettant le Prince Nicolas en demeure d'occuper ce territoire, les Puissances continueront à exercer le contrôle et la protection nécessaires pour assurer l'exécution loyale et pacifique de leurs décisions.

* * * * *

Depuis lors, la télégraphie privée a annoncé l'entrée de Dervish Pacha à Dulcigno et l'invitation qu'il a adressée au Prince Nicolas d'envoyer un Commissaire pour s'entendre sur les conditions de la remise de cette ville et de son territoire aux Monténégrins. Le Prince Nicolas ayant accepté cette invitation, les difficultés que Lord Granville appréhendait ne semblent pas devoir venir de sa part.

No. 67.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 566. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith another extract from the private letter which I received this afternoon from Baron Jomini, as reported in my preceding despatch of this date.

Your Lordship will see that Baron Jomini states that the Imperial Cabinet adheres to the combination proposed by Her Majesty's Government that, after the "remise" of Dulcigno, the divided squadrons should each go to a neighbouring anchoring-ground, in order to prove to the Porte that the European concert is still maintained, in spite of the cessation of the special naval demonstration in the Dulcigno affair. His Excellency further adds that the necessary orders have been sent to the Russian Admiral at Cattaro.

As far as I understand the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, as given in your Lordship's telegram No. 894 of the 9th instant, the above is not the plan which your Lordship desires; nor is the answer of Baron Jomini, now given, a reply to any application which I have made.

Your Lordship's telegram above alluded to did not instruct me to communicate about it with the Russian Government, and I never spoke about the future movements of the fleets until the day before yesterday, when Baron Jomini told me he had heard from General Chanzy, who was leaving the room as I went in, many interesting things, some of which concerned me.

On my inquiring what they might be, Baron Jomini said the French Ambassador had been talking to him about a proposal which Her Majesty's Government had made at Paris, with regard to what should be done with the combined fleets after the cession of Dulcigno. He added that, as far as he had understood what General Chanzy had told him, the plan seemed to be a good one. The maintenance of combined action, even if only in a lower key, was in his opinion most important, and Russia would be ready to support this policy as long as it was possible.

Baron Jomini said the Imperial Government, as far as he was aware, had not yet heard anything of this proposal, and asked me whether I had any information I could give him.

I told Baron Jomini that I had not been instructed to make any communication to the Imperial Government, nor did I think that any definite proposal had been yet made, either in Paris or elsewhere: that, however, I had reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government were inclined to agree, with that of France, that the final separation of the combined squadrons would be unadvisable, and that they thought the various Admirals should take separate cruizes, and call for orders at places which would be pre-arranged; whether, however, these places of call were to be fixed upon by the Admirals at Cattaro, or by the Governments, I did not exactly know.

As Baron Jomini expressed himself pleased with this idea, I asked him whether he would allow me to inform your Lordship of the view which he took of it; he begged me to say nothing until he had referred to Livadia.

The conversation then turned on other matters, and I soon took leave of Baron Jomini. Reminding his Excellency that I had not been charged to make any communication, and that I had replied only to the question he had put to me in consequence of what he heard from General Chanzy, I added that I felt sure Her Majesty's Government would be glad to hear that the Russian Government took the same view as they did of the best steps to be taken under the circumstances of the objection shown by certain Powers to the continuance of the naval demonstration, and of the importance, on the other hand, of proving to the Porte that, with the cession of Dulcigno, the European concert had still not come entirely to an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 68.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 568. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 27, 1880.*

AS directed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I inquired of Baron Jomini this afternoon whether the Russian Government would agree to direct their Admiral, when the cession of Dulcigno is accomplished, to take separate cruize, with the pre-arranged place of call for orders in case of necessity arising.

At the same time I called his Excellency's attention to the discrepancy between this proposal, which was substantially what I had told him in our interview of the day before yesterday (reported in my despatch No. 569 of this date), and the plan, of which he had notified the acceptance by the Imperial Government, in his private note to me of yesterday.

In his note he had stated that the Imperial Government acceded to the combination that, after the "remise" of Dulcigno, the divided squadrons should each go to a "neighbouring anchoring-ground," in order to prove to the Porte that the European concert is still maintained, in spite of the cessation of the special naval demonstration in the Dulcigno affair.

The proposal of Her Majesty's Government was only that the Admirals, when cession of Dulcigno is accomplished, should take separate cruizes, with the pre-arranged place of call for orders in case of necessity arising.

Baron Jomini said your Lordship's proposal was more vaguely worded, but there did not seem to be much practical difference between the two plans. His answer to me was to the proposal as he had understood it from what the French Ambassador had told him.

I begged leave to differ from his Excellency as to the value of the distinction; the words "to a neighbouring anchoring-ground," in the Russian version, made an enormous difference. As it was, I feared it might be difficult enough to get Austria and Germany to agree even to our proposal; they would no doubt prefer the complete breaking up of the united squadron, and they would, I felt convinced, take exception to the stipulation that it should be to a neighbouring anchoring-ground that the fleets should adjourn.

Baron Jomini acknowledged that there was truth in this objection, but observed that in no case did he think there was much prospect of Austria or Germany agreeing to either proposal; they look with disfavour on any continuation of the combined naval movement.

His Excellency finally said he would refer my present inquiry to Livadia, and let me have an answer as soon as he received it himself.

Baron Jomini discussed at some length the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, on which on the whole he, personally, looks with favour. He said that it was, however, very vague, and he would have liked to have had some more definite idea of what places of call were contemplated for selection.

In principle, however, all that Russia desires is that the fleets should not separate entirely, and that they should be somewhere within call in case of necessity arising to bring further pressure to bear upon the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

(Extrait.) *Le 14/26 Novembre, 1880.*

LE Cabinet Impérial adhère à la combinaison suggérée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, qu'après la remise de Dulcigno les escadres séparées se rendent chacune dans un mouillage à proximité afin de montrer à la Porte le maintien du concert Européen malgré la cessation de la démonstration spéciale motivée par l'affaire de Dulcigno.

Les ordres nécessaires ont été transmis au Commandant de notre escadre à Cattaro.

No. 69.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 569. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 29, 1880.*

IN reply to the inquiry which, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 922 of the 26th instant, I addressed to Baron Jomini, his Excellency has informed me in a private note, extract from which is herewith inclosed, that he hears from Livadia that the Russian Government consider it would be urgent to trace the Turco-Montenegrin frontier according to the Anglo-Austrian line, as accepted by the other Powers, and they think that collective steps in this sense at Constantinople would be desirable.

It will not escape your Lordship's notice that the above reply goes beyond the inquiry which I was instructed to make of the Imperial Government.

When I called at the Foreign Department on Saturday to make the inquiry, I had some unofficial conversation with Baron Jomini on this subject.

While reserving his reply until he had consulted M. de Giers, Baron Jomini said he thought it would be important to lose no time in commencing the delimitation of the frontier-line east of the lake, about which there was still some uncertainty.

I pointed out to his Excellency that I understood the inquiry of Her Majesty's Government to refer only to the delimitation of the territory of Dulcigno. The other was a larger question which, for the moment, was not so pressing, and on which, unfortunately, there perhaps might be differences of opinion.

Let us first do what we were agreed about, and by continuing to act together, endeavour to consolidate the combined action of the Powers, which afterwards would, I trust, bear a severer strain than it might be wise to subject it to at present.

His Excellency said he entirely agreed with me as to the importance of maintaining the united action as long as possible.

From his language, however, I gathered that his Excellency thought urgency is required, not so much for the delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier as for that of the line beyond the lake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

(Extrait.)

JE considère également le tracé de la frontière Turco-Monténégrine, conformément à la ligne Anglo-Autrichienne acceptée par les Puissances, comme urgent, et je crois que les démarches collectives dans ce sens à Constantinople seraient désirables.

No. 70.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 571. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 30, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 568 of the 27th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship yesterday, by telegraph, that Baron Jomini has just informed me, in a private note, that the answer which he has received from M. de Giers is that the Imperial Government adhere to the text of the English proposition respecting the squadrons.

This morning I have been honoured by your Lordship's telegram No. 933, in which you are so good as to explain that the plan proposed by Her Majesty's Government is identical with that which had been approved by the French Government, as reported in the despatch No. 1041 of the 8th instant from Lord Lyons, copy of which had been forwarded to me by the last messenger.

If your Lordship will kindly refer to what I have reported in my despatch above alluded to, you will see that Baron Jomini would seem to have somewhat misunderstood what General Chanzy must have said to him upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 71.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 575. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 1, 1880.*

IN the course of an interview which I had this afternoon with Baron Jomini, I told him that I understood your Lordship to be now of opinion that, in view of the objections entertained by some of the Powers to an immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier, the best course would probably be to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to consult among themselves as to the best mode of settling the Dulcigno boundary.

Baron Jomini—expressing, however, merely his own opinion—said he was inclined to share your Lordship's views on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 72.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

E
(No. 578. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 1, 1880.*

THE last week before the Emperor returns to St. Petersburgh is always pregnant of wild rumours, but nothing is done, and no decision is come to, until His Majesty has arrived.

This year is no exception to the general rule.

His Majesty is expected here in three or four days.

The final surrender of Dulcigno has produced little effect. When I saw Baron Jomini for the first time, the day after the news had arrived of the advance of the Montenegrins, I found his Excellency more inclined to call my attention to the difficulties still in store on the Greek question, than to rejoice with me over the step which had at last been made. He gave me the impression of liking better to anticipate trouble elsewhere, than to contemplate repose after a success, and I cannot persuade myself that his Excellency was as entirely satisfied at the turn things have taken, as are probably most of the other Diplomatists engaged in these negotiations.

It is, however, my agreeable duty to report that nothing can be more friendly than the manner in which he invariably speaks of Her Majesty's Government, and the desire of Russia to act always, as far as possible, with Great Britain.

On the Greek question his Excellency seems to think that it will be impossible ever to force Turkey to surrender Janina; he hints frequently that, if the Powers cannot

agree to act together on that basis, Greece might be engaged to satisfy herself for the present with less or with something else. I understand this to be an allusion to the notion, reported some time back by the Earl of Dufferin, that Crete might be given to Greece in return for concessions on the mainland.

In view, however, of the instructions in your Lordship's telegram No. 484 of the 9th August, I have never raised the question, and have confined myself to urging that, as the Powers have recommended the cession of a certain territory to Greece, on the faith of which she has made certain preparations, it is difficult now to force her to abstain from action without, at the same time assuring her of what she may expect in return for consulting the convenience of Europe. Her Majesty's Government always recommended prudence to the Greeks, and had indeed been the last to cease objections to the mobilization this summer, but they were not, I thought, inclined to abandon the Greeks.

Baron Jomini said there was an idea at Constantinople that the Turks had, at the last moment, given in at Dulcigno, with a view to seeking a quarrel with Greece, while she seems to be abandoned by the Powers, and before her armaments are completed.

I said no such report had reached me, and I could not believe the Sultan would be so insane as to enter on so dangerous a course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 73.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 620.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk respecting the annual recruitment for the Bulgarian army in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, November 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the annual recruitment for the Bulgarian army has just finished here.

According to order, this Prefecture should have furnished 606 recruits, of whom 214 Jews and Christians and 392 Mahommedans.

I understand that not a single Jew nor Armenian presented himself; the other Christians are in sufficient numbers. With regard to the Mussulmans, only 150 came forward.

The causes of this deficit are various. There seems to have been some mistake in making up the lists; or, at all events, it turned out that there were a great number of "only sons" registered who could not be taken. There are also eighteen villages which have not furnished one representative; they have not absolutely refused, but at least they did not send them in, and I understand blame is attached to the Moukhtars for this neglect, and that they will be punished.

Yesterday, the lists being closed, several lads from these eighteen villages came into town, but could not be received; and the Prefect informs me he has requested permission to hold a supplementary recruitment, so as to enable all to come in voluntarily.

As far as I have seen, all the recruits are fine young fellows.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 74.

Memorandum containing the Instructions which had been the Basis of M. de Hengelmüller's Verbal Communications to Earl Granville.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, December 6.)

E

(Confidential.)

BARON HAYMERLE fully appreciates the confidence which Lord Granville had shown to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and is desirous to reciprocate it by an open and unreserved development of his policy, even with regard to those points on which he is unable to concur with the views of Lord Granville.

We are most anxious that the Eastern crisis should find Austria-Hungary and England united, and we are convinced that our reciprocal interests in the East do not clash anywhere. The aims of our policy are: the settlement of the pending questions on the basis of the Berlin Treaty in a spirit of humanity and progress, the preservation of peace in face of all the vicissitudes of the Oriental crisis, and the maintenance of the actual balance of power on the Balkan Peninsula. Trusting that these aims are identical with those pursued by England, we think that an exchange of ideas on the means of their realization will not have the effect of separating us.

Lord Granville has said that Her Majesty's Government could not consider their task as fulfilled after the settlement of the Dulcigno question, and that the questions of finances, of the Greek frontier and of the reforms had to be resolved and carried out.

We are of the same opinion, and we consider it the task of the European Powers to exert themselves for the successive realisation of all the non-executed Articles of the Berlin Treaty. It is not only our faithful adherence to Treaty stipulations that leads us this way, but our special interests also, for no other State has a similar stake in the strengthening of the Greek element, and in arriving at some stability in the neighbouring Empire of Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government will always be sure to meet with our support in these directions.

Where we differ from them is in the opinion about the nature of the means to be employed.

Lord Granville desires the maintenance of the European concert, and the common action of all the Powers. But he does not believe in the efficacy of a diplomatic pressure, chiefly if it were known that the Powers would not go beyond it.

We, too, lay the utmost importance on the maintenance of the European concert, but we do not believe that coercive measures will lead to this end. The European concert is a diplomatic concert, and its aim is the maintenance of peace. It does not fulfil this aim when, instead of giving to the world a sense of security, it is used for acts of force the moral effects of which for trade and commerce are the same as those of war.

We know that Lord Granville has no intention to make war on Turkey, but the measures of coercion which he has in view may provoke the actual resistance of Turkey, and thereby lead to war.

Now, is it likely that all the European Powers will join such measures, which may involve the sacrifice of blood and money of their subjects? And even if they did, is it likely that their concert would outlive the hazards and vicissitudes of a prolonged action? Is it not rather more likely that, in the course of events, differences of opinion, nay, conflicts of interests, will emerge and become manifest, and that the confusion, characteristic of the state of the Levant, may be transferred into the mutual relations of the several Powers? At the occasion of the Dulcigno expedition the danger of a conflict with Turkey was excluded by the instructions; Dulcigno had already legally ceased to be Turkish territory and a conflict could only have occurred with Albanian insurgents. Nevertheless, differences of opinion had occurred with regard to the exercise of force.

Lord Granville seems to think that it depends upon Austria-Hungary to bring about a common action of all the Powers. Baron Haymerle cannot admit this. It does not belong to the Imperial and Royal Government to precise and explain the policy of the other Powers, but it is an acquired fact that Germany had already, at the occasion of the naval demonstration, made her reserves against any further use of force, and that she would not have gone to Smyrna, whether we had gone or not.

Without entering into a discussion about the dispositions of the rulers of France, we

cannot lose sight of the peaceful inclination the French people have manifested during the last summer, and we conclude therefrom that our example had in no way a decisive influence on the resolutions of the French Cabinet.

Some doubts may even be permitted with regard to Russia's and Italy's readiness to use armed force for the pending questions of the Berlin Treaty.

But, however that may be, Baron Haymerle thinks he owes it to Lord Granville's openness to declare to him frankly that Austria-Hungary will not enter into any action which might involve her into the chance of a war with Turkey. Such a chance exists as soon as any threats are used, for in such a case military honour forbids retreat. The Austro-Hungarian Government are forbidden, as well by their political conviction as by the openly-expressed wishes and resolutions of the Representative Bodies of the Empire, to enter into such action for any other purpose than the direct interests of the Monarchy.

We do not believe in the possibility of a European concert for coercive measures. We believe the European concert might do very useful service as a wall, but not as a wedge. We believe that this concert could easily be maintained if it set itself the task slowly to solve the complications of the East in order to tranquillize the Balkan Peninsula and Europe, and if it would steadily pursue this task, but at the same time convince Europe that the settlement of pending questions does not mean perpetual intervention.

But, putting the European concert aside, we doubt whether the satisfactory settlement of the pending questions is to be achieved by means of force.

In the Montenegrin question the object in view was only a small strip of territory which the Porte had already surrendered in principle. Nevertheless, the pressure of the united fleets brought no result. The difficulties of such enterprises grow in proportion to the extent of the territory and its distance from the coast. If we consider the frontier-line which the Berlin Conference has awarded to Greece, we foresee the greatest difficulties and troubles in case of coercion, whether it be applied *in loco* or in Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government seem to entertain the idea of applying the coercive measures at some third, easily accessible point, and thereby to force Turkey into submission. But we think that such submission would always remain on paper, and that its execution would only be carried out by the actual occupation of the territory in question either by the Greeks themselves—a task notoriously beyond their power—or by the landing of foreign troops. We do not know whether any Power is prepared to carry their zeal for the Self-Denial Protocol so far as to undertake the burdens of such an expedition; but we know that the other Powers, before they admitted such a step, would have to consider that it meant war, war waged in the name of Europe, and that it would have only one possible end, viz., the destruction of Turkey.

We are fully aware that the existence or destruction of Turkey cannot be calculated by any statesmanship for any length of time, and that no Great Power has enough faith in the vitality of that Empire to bring its own forces to bear for its artificial maintenance. But we think that it would be very imprudent and full of danger for the peace of Europe and the development of the Balkan nationalities, if the Powers did for the destruction of Turkey what they would not do for its preservation. No European Areopagus has yet arrived at a clear understanding as to what should take its place. Besides the Slav populations, whose aspirations have been artificially nurtured by an active and contriving propaganda, no other elements are grown to ripeness and able to take their legitimate place. Not a federation of independent nationalities, but war would take the place of the fallen Empire, and we have every reason to fear that the Greek element, which England means to favour, would fare very badly between the hostility of the Slavs and the Albanians.

If coercive measures would fail to insure the rectification of the Greek frontiers, they would be still more ineffective for the realization of the reforms in European and Asiatic Turkey. Here, too, they would only lead to formal concession, not to actual execution. The latter wants the good-will of the giver and the receiver, wants men and money, and, first of all, time.

Lord Granville cannot more sternly condemn the weakness and the ambiguities of the Porte than we do. We have had some experience of them at the occasion of the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Baron Haymerle concurs with Lord Granville when he says that England cannot change her policy because it has pleased Turkey to raise so many difficulties about the Dulcigno question. But we must use the same argument in adding that Europe cannot afford to alter her decisions, and go further every day because the Porte gives fresh proof of her want of reliability. We cannot be pushed

from action to action, according as the decisions wander from the Palace to the Porte.

In developing these views we cannot lay enough stress upon the fact that we do not mean to give up the demands which we have raised conjointly with the other Powers. We mean to advocate the claims of Greece towards the Porte, and to keep the execution of the reforms, according to the proposition of the Commission, constantly in view.

To resume:

We desire the European concert; we think it would be menaced by coercive measures. We do not think that an executory proceeding is apt to insure the aim in view. We hope that the steady pressure of united Europe will ultimately, by its moral weight, carry the resolutions of the Porte. We insist upon the execution of the Berlin Treaty, but we think that the proceedings of the Powers must be influenced by three paramount considerations: the general want of peace of the world, the danger of a violent destruction of Turkey, and the real force of the nationalities which we mean to support.

Belgrave Square, December 1, 1880.

No. 75.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6, 2 P.M.)

(No. 376.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 6, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

I HAVE brought Delimitation question before Ambassadors. All had received instructions and were agreed. German Dragoman proceeds to Porte in our collective name to invite Porte to name Frontier Commissioner immediately to join in work of delimitation, Commissioners of the other Powers and of Montenegro being prepared to act at once. Porte is requested to instruct Dervish Pasha to take necessary precautions for security of Commission.

No. 76.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

E. C.
(No 785.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 763A of the 23rd ultimo, on the subject of an interview which I had with M. von Hengelmüller on the policy to be pursued in the Eastern question, I have to state to your Excellency that, on the 2nd instant, I saw Count Károlyi, who has just returned to his post, and that we went over the ground of my previous communication with M. von Hengelmüller. Count Károlyi laid great stress on the fact that, from his personal communications with persons of all parties in Austria-Hungary, he felt it would be impossible for his Government at present to have recourse to any act of coercion against the Turks. He said that his Government did not intend to interfere with the action England might take, but that they believed that any active measures would precipitate the catastrophe which Her Majesty's Government were desirous to avoid; that, short of measures of coercion, the Austro-Hungarian Government desired to act in warm co-operation with Her Majesty's Government; that, as to the Greek question, it was possible that if the Greeks invaded Turkey the populations might rise against the Porte, but that any assistance from the Powers would make such a rising certain. The Austro-Hungarian Government trusted much to constant diplomatic pressure.

His Excellency told me that he would send me, confidentially, a translation of the despatch which had been the basis of M. von Hengelmüller's conversation.

I answered that it was no use arguing on the determination which had been taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government, which I was aware was supported by the public opinion of his country; that there was no difference of opinion between us as to its being desirable to postpone the breaking up of the Turkish Empire; that the difference consisted as to the best mode of preserving it; that I had great doubt whether diplomatic pressure, if it were known that it would be without backing, would be effectual; that the state of Turkey was such that I feared the *laissez-faire* policy would hasten the catastrophe we deplored; and that my conviction was confirmed that, if Europe chose, it would,

without going to war, compel the Turks to do that which was necessary for their preservation; that the military preparations in Greece and Turkey were ruining their respective finances; and that what I should have wished, if it had been possible, was not to join Greece in making war, but that Europe should have taken such a position as to settle the question without going to war.

In the meanwhile, I acknowledged the frankness of Count Károlyi's communications, and said that I was anxious to act as far as possible in concert with Austria, and that it happened that I had been more full in my communications with her than with any other Power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 77.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 377.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 7, 1880.

I HAVE spoken to Foreign Minister about delineation. He sees no objection personally to proceeding at once, and will consult his colleagues. He does not foresee difficulties.

No. 78.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 7, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 61 of the 4th instant, destination of Russian squadron has been changed; it has gone to Naples.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 60 of the 1st.

We shall be glad to hear as much as you can learn as to intentions of Greece; but it will be better to avoid putting suggestive questions at present.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1880, 6 P.M.

MR. GOSCHEN was instructed to concert with his colleagues at Constantinople as to settling the new Turco-Montenegrin boundary. Austria suggested the immediate demarcation of frontier between lake and the sea, provided Dervish Pasha could guarantee tranquillity. Her Majesty's Government concurred.

Result of Mr. Goschen's negotiations are recorded in his telegrams Nos. 376 and 377 of 6th and 7th, repeated to you.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 793.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 747 of the 21st ultimo on the subject of the final settlement of the Servian, Bulgarian, and Roumanian frontiers, I have to state to

your Excellency that I approve the language you held to Baron Haymerle as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 150. Secret and Confidential. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1880.*

FROM your telegram No. 60, Secret and Confidential, of the 1st instant, reporting a conversation with the King as to the policy which Greece is determined to pursue in regard to the frontier question, I notice that you inquired of His Majesty whether he proposed to consult the Powers upon the means to be employed for obtaining possession of the new territory.

Her Majesty's Government will be glad to be kept informed of all that you can learn of the intentions of the Greek Government in the present juncture, but they think it desirable that you should, in the absence of special instructions, abstain from putting questions which may appear suggestive of any particular course of action by Greece in this question, and I have accordingly telegraphed to you in this sense to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 97. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1880.*

I HAVE to inform you that instructions have been sent to Mr. Goschen to concert with his colleagues at Constantinople as to the best mode of settling the new Turco-Montenegrin boundary. The Austrian Government have urged that the demarcation of the Dulcigno frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the sea should be proceeded with immediately, provided that the maintenance of tranquillity can be absolutely guaranteed by Dervish Pasha. Her Majesty's Government have replied that they have no objection, and as soon as the consent of all the Powers to the proposal of the Austrian Government has been obtained, you will receive instructions to take part in the work.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 146. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translated copy of a letter on the subject of the outrages which were perpetrated about the end of last month by the brigand Chief Teham, in the vicinity of Colindro, in district of Catterina, and to which I referred in my despatch No. 131 of the 9th instant.

I have heard that brigands have again made their appearance in the district of Cassandra.

On Monday last, the 22nd instant, they went to the village of Nikita and demanded provisions and the sum of 300 Turkish liras; the former were given, but the money was not forthcoming. The local authorities have sent in pursuit of this band a force composed of military and Christian village guards.

I may mention that a general order has been sent to the district Governors in this vilayet requiring them, in case of emergency, to arm a certain number of Christian or Turkish villagers, and employ them in pursuit of the banditti.

Nicko has been heard of again. He went, about a month ago, to Milia, a village five

hours from Catterina, and there wreaked his vengeance on a villager whom he suspected of spying his movements.

He seized the man, with his mother, and carried them outside the village, where he murdered him and cut his body into pieces under the eyes of the unfortunate mother. The fiend next obliged the poor woman to return to the village and summon the people to go and see "how Nicko dealt with traitors."

It is, however, a great relief to be able to announce to your Lordship that the police and Albanian gendarmerie have finally been roused to exertion, for of late they have made some progress toward the pursuit and repression of brigandage. These results have, in a great measure, been stimulated by the collective representation which was made to the Porte by the local Beys and Christian Notables on the inability of the authorities to maintain order. Also, the rumour circulated and generally believed in the interior that Abédine Pasha was to be sent here as Vali has operated very beneficially on the Albanian gendarmerie, who equally fear and respect his Excellency; but, in justice to the Mushir and Acting Governor-General, Hassan Tahsin Pasha, I ought to mention that, although somewhat advanced in years, he appears to have addressed himself to his administrative duties with zeal and the firm determination to combat the violence, outrage, and anarchy which still reign in this province. His laudable efforts in that direction have thus far been attended with some satisfactory results.

Shortly after he took charge of the vilayet (25th October last) the Albanian gendarmerie, acting in concert with military detachments and bodies of armed peasants sent out by the Pasha in different directions, actively pursued and successfully encountered some of the principal bands of brigands, of whom they have killed, between the 1st and 20th instant, 14 (2 Bulgarians and 12 Greeks, including the Chief Mitzo Makri), wounded 8 (all Greek) and captured 14 (1 Greek, 5 Bulgarian, and 8 Albanian).

The number of captured brigands includes two notorious Chiefs, viz., Yonouz Ghega (Albanian) and Kouko (a Bulgarian).

An account of their capture is given in the inclosed translated extract from the "Hermis" Greek newspaper published at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

Extract from a private Letter from Colindro, November 6, 1880.

(Translation.)

AS for brigandage, it stands thus:—

On the 30th of last month the brigands captured Diamandi Popous, George Bomboukis (the latter a servant of Athanassoula Parapouza), and the sons of Costa Makri and Demetrius Plastra, whilst returning from the mill of Sykia. After having ordered them to dance they tyrannized them fearfully and cruelly; in fact, in such an obscene and shocking manner that no pen can describe it.

At last, cutting off their ears, they ordered them to go to sleep, and after this they sent them to their homes half dead, keeping their flour, of course. After liberating the above unfortunate individuals, they also made prisoners the servant of Kiryacko and Theologo, beat them, cut off their ears, and let them go, also keeping their sacks of flour.

The authors of the above cruelties are three, viz., Teham, Kamakas, and Elia Zarkadi, and the aggregate manner of their followers is sixty. They have written to the Primates demanding 500 Turkish liras to be sent within two days, otherwise they would enter Colindro.

Their order was that no one should go out of the village to transact any business whatsoever, for if they met any one either at the well or elsewhere they should kill him. On account of this imperative order the poor villagers remain panic-stricken doing nothing. There are only fifteen Albanian gendarmes within the village, but yesterday evening forty more soldiers sent from Catterina arrived, and the inhabitants have gained some strength and courage.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Extract from the "Hermis" of November $\frac{11}{23}$, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE authorities have been telegraphically informed of the capture of the notorious brigand Chief Koukos, who, in the course of the last three years, has committed numerous atrocities in the district of Serres.

His capture was effected in the village of Nasta by one of the military detachments specially employed in the pursuit of brigands. Four of Kouko's confederates fled, but are hotly pursued and likely to be captured by the detachment.

A further telegram from the Kaïmakam of Yenidjeh Vardar also reports to the authorities the capture of another notorious malefactor, viz., Ginous Guega, and five of his followers, in a tchiftlik two and a-half hours distant from Yenidjeh, in which they took refuge from the pursuit of the military.

After resisting the fire of the latter for three hours, they surrendered themselves.

Another brigand named Ghiorghi, of the village of Vavdo, has been captured at Vromosirta, in Nahié of Kalamaria, and we hear from Caraferia that several brigand Chiefs are anxious to lay down their arms.

The above results are due to the energy displayed, since his arrival here, by Hassan Tahsin Pasha in the pursuit of the state of brigandage which afflicts Macedonia.

No. 85.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 551. Extender.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 2, 1880.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 851 of the 1st instant, I lost no time in proposing to the Italian Government that they should name without delay some place or places to which their ships will proceed from Cattaro, and that thereupon the Commander-in-chief should be authorized to give the signal to part company.

I added, that I had been directed to state that Her Majesty's Government proposed to send their ships to Malta.

In reply, I received a note from Count Maffei stating that orders had already been sent to Admiral Fincati to part company as soon as Admiral Seymour should give the signal, but that the instructions would now be repeated, and that Naples would be the place of call for the Italian vessels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 86.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

E

(No. 550. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 3, 1880.*

A FEW days ago I asked Count Maffei whether any communication had recently been addressed by the Italian Government to the Government of Greece as to the policy they should pursue under present circumstances.

Count Maffei replied, that about a month or six weeks ago the Italian Minister at Athens had written to say that he was a good deal pressed by the Greek Government to state what assistance they might look for from the Italian Government in obtaining the execution of the decision of the Berlin Conference, and he accordingly applied for instructions on this subject.

No official answer, Count Maffei said, had been returned to this application, but, he added, a short time ago he had received a letter from a person with whom he was well acquainted in Athens, a person in a good position, who had been spoken of as likely to be appointed as Greek Minister to Rome, asking for his candid opinion as to what Greece had to expect from the Powers, and the course she ought to pursue.

To this Count Maffei said he had replied by stating that the circumstances at the

present moment were extremely difficult and critical, that there was hesitation on the part of some of the Powers as to pursuing any farther an energetic policy towards Turkey, and that under these circumstances he could only give the advice to the Greek Government of "prudence, prudence, et encore de la prudence."

Count Maffei added that he had shown this letter, of course, to M. Cairoli, who had entirely approved it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 87.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

E

(No. 558.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 4, 1880.*

I ACQUAINTED M. Cairoli yesterday with the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 853 of the 2nd instant, to the effect that the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari having reported that he saw no particular difficulty in proceeding with the immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier, order being re-established and the weather favourable, if Dervish Pasha guarantees the absolute maintenance of tranquillity, the Austrian Government are ready to ask the Porte to instruct Dervish Pasha in this sense, and, in case of a satisfactory answer, will order the Austrian Commissioner to take part in the work. I also stated that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to this course, if the other Powers agree, and that your Lordship had sent instructions in this sense to Mr. Goschen.

M. Cairoli replied that he would at once send instructions in the same sense to Count Corti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 88.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

E

(No. 561. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 4, 1880.*

IN an interview I had with M. Cairoli yesterday morning, after some conversation relating to the satisfactory surrender of Dulcigno, I referred to the Greek frontier question, and asked his Excellency what was his opinion as to the course which should now be pursued.

M. Cairoli said that he had given the same advice at Athens as Her Majesty's Government and the other Governments had done, viz., to be prudent, and not to do anything which might precipitate a contest.

I said I was aware that the German and also the French Ministers had spoken in this sense, and I also understood from an account your Lordship had been good enough to send me of a conversation with General Menabrea (No. 614 of the 11th November) that your Lordship would be inclined to give the same advice, if you could accompany it by an assurance that the Greeks would not be the losers by such conduct.

I asked M. Cairoli whether he had given the Greek Government any assurance of this kind.

His Excellency said that he had not; but that it was so evidently the interest of the Greeks to keep quiet at this moment, and not to bring about a crisis when it was manifestly the desire of all the Powers not to embroil matters, that in urging prudence he felt he was only giving the Greek Government advice in their own interest.

I mentioned to his Excellency my conversation with Count Maffei on this subject, as reported in my despatch No. 559 of yesterday's date, and inquired whether besides Count Maffei's letter to his private correspondent, which his Excellency told me he had seen and approved, he had recently sent any instructions to the Italian Minister at Athens to speak in the same sense, to which he replied that he had not desired any formal communication or representation to be made to the Greek Government, but that the general sense of the instructions addressed to Count Customassi was to urge moderation and prudence.

His Excellency added that he was fully alive to the difficulties and embarrassments of a waiting policy for the Greek Government. He had had a conversation with King George when he had passed through Rome, and that from what His Majesty had said, and from what he had since learnt, he believed that unless the Greeks ultimately obtained satisfaction, a revolution involving the throne might be the consequence. Nevertheless, he did not think anything was to be gained by opening the Greek frontier question at Constantinople just now. It was too soon after the Montenegrin affair; time should be given to let matters cool down. The great thing was, his Excellency said, to keep up the European concert. As for the Italian Government, they desired as hitherto to follow entirely the same policy as Her Majesty's Government, but his own idea was that the Greek Frontier question should be allowed to repose for the present, and that the intervening time should be employed by communications between the Powers with a view of establishing a complete understanding as to the future course to be pursued, and I think I understood his Excellency to say that he intended to instruct General Menabrea to speak to your Lordship in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 89.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 1120. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 5, 1880.*

IN pursuance of a telegraphic instruction which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship last evening, I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this morning that I was directed by your Lordship to propose to him to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate, after communicating with the Representatives of their several Governments at Scutari, upon the best mode of proceeding with regard to the settlement of the Dulcigno frontier.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire has informed me, in reply, that he has sent instructions in the sense of the above proposal to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 90.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December 7, 1880, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 49 of to-day, according to latest advice the French Commissioner is still in Paris. As all the other Commissioners, including the Turkish Commissioner, are here or at Scutari, this must cause delay if the Commission reunites.

No. 91.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December 8, 1880, 11 A.M.*

THE following definition of the new Montenegrin frontier between the lake and the sea corrects the errors in those previously given. I have given the French text in my despatch No. 30 of the 4th instant to your Lordship.

The frontier leaves the Adriatic at the mouth of the River Boyana; it mounts the thalweg of that river as far as the junction of the small watercourse which traverses the Lake of Sas, and which bears, higher up its course, the name of the River Megured. Quitting this junction, the frontier follows the most direct natural line to a point named Crveni Kamen on the map of Colonel Kaulbars, i.e., the most eastern point of that part of the trace proposed by the Russian Commissioner in 1879 which lies south of latitude 42°.

Thence the frontier follows the Russian trace as far as Point 11 (the summit between Betrovitza and Maljan of Captain Sale's map).

From that point up to Point Goritza Topal of the same map it coincides with line proposed by English Commissioner in 1879.

(Not repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 92.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 363. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of M. de Moüy at Athens. He is the bearer of no special communication to the Greek Government, but has assured them, in the name of his Government, of the lively sympathy and friendship of France, adding at the same time, however, that she must adhere to her present pacific policy.

The French Government, he states, felt no doubt that the new frontier awarded to Greece by Europe would be eventually secured, but that, should Greece decide upon a rash course of action in the matter, she need expect no moral support from France, or help in the event of an unsuccessful issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 93.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

E.
(No. 366. Secret and Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 1, 1880.*

I HAD the honour of being received in audience by the King this morning. His Majesty spoke very warmly respecting the impracticable and unavailing nature of the advice conveyed to Greece by the French Government. Matters, he said, had gone too far to admit of Greece discontinuing her military preparations, and although he had himself been, at the outset, averse to the mobilization being effected at the early date desired by the late Ministry, he was now convinced that Greece could not do otherwise than follow out the policy she had adopted, any deviation from which would be fatal to the welfare of the kingdom and the general interests of Hellenism.

I then asked His Majesty whether it was the intention of the Government, now that the question of Dulcigno had been arranged, to attempt to sound the intentions of the Great Powers as to the measures to be adopted to secure for Greece the acquisition of her new frontier. His Majesty informed me, in reply, that they did not propose to do so at present, but intended to wait until the military preparations had been more completely effected, and the army should be capable of both occupying and retaining possession of the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 94.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 638.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 1, 1880.*

SUCCESSIVE telegrams from Mr. Green and Captain Sale have informed your Lordship of the final cession of Dulcigno.

Owing to some inexplicable cause the Porte were not informed by Dervish Pasha of what had happened till long after the occupation of the town by the Montenegrins. I was the first to receive the news at Constantinople by a telegram from Captain Sale, which reached here on Saturday morning, being dated a little after midnight on the same day. I sent the news to the Porte at once, and wished to learn details, but nothing was known, nor did any news arrive during the whole of that day, and on Sunday morning the

Foreign Minister was still ignorant of the facts, except so far as I had communicated them to him.

While Dulcigno was occupied by the Montenegrins on Friday evening, the Porte sent a note, of which I inclose a copy, sent on that same day, assuming that the Montenegrins would not march, and Count Hatzfeldt was informed by a message from the Palace that the Montenegrins had asked for a month's time.

I was bound to telegraph these circumstances to your Lordship, though I doubted at the time whether there was any foundation for the facts reported. Great relief seems to be experienced here at a solution having at last been arrived at.

According to your Lordship's instructions, I expressed the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government within due limits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 26 Novembre, 1880.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de l'Empire Ottoman, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de la Grande Bretagne, d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de M. le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, que son Excellence Dervish Pacha, Commissaire Extraordinaire et Commandant-en-chef de Scutari, est entré à Dulcigno avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes Mardi dernier, 23 Novembre, et qu'il s'est empressé d'informer le Gouvernement du Monténégro, qu'il est prêt à remettre Dulcigno entre les mains des autorités Monténégrines.

Par l'occupation de cette ville, le Commandant-en-chef est, en effet, à l'heure qu'il est, en mesure d'en effectuer immédiatement la remise.

En conséquence, Dervish Pacha a reçu l'ordre d'attendre les corps d'occupation du Monténégro jusqu'à Dimanche, 28 Novembre, à 10 heures du matin à la franque, pour faire la remise dont il s'agit.

Dans le cas où les troupes Monténégrines ne se rendraient pas à l'invitation faite par le Commandant-en-chef Ottoman jusqu'au délai susdit, celui-ci a pour instruction de prolonger ce délai de vingt heures, soit jusqu'à Lundi prochain, 29 Novembre, en notifiant cette prolongation au Gouvernement Princier et en lui déclarant en même temps que si dans l'intervalle les Monténégrins ne viennent pas occuper Dulcigno il se retirera, passé ce dernier délai, de la ville précitée, avec ses troupes, laissant toute la responsabilité au Gouvernement du Monténégro.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 95.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1550.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 9, 1880.

ATTENTION has been called in this country to a despatch from Count de Montebello, of the 28th July last, which appears in the French Yellow Book, reporting a conversation which had passed between him and me that day on the subject of the naval demonstration. Count de Montebello states in that despatch "Lord Granville m'a prié de vous assurer que l'Angleterre n'avait pas la moindre intention de tirer un coup de canon, mais qu'il serait très-imprudent de le trop affirmer d'avance."

Your Excellency is in possession of an account of the same conversation given by me, immediately after it took place, in my despatch No. 1014 of the same date. You will see that I described myself as speaking as follows:—

"But it now appeared that M. de Freycinet wished to attach two further conditions to the French participation in a naval demonstration for the settlement of this question. These were (1) that no troops should be landed; and (2) that no cannon shots should be fired.

"As regards the first condition, I had only to say that the landing of troops did not form part of the proposal that had been made, which went no further than the presence of a naval force. But the second condition tended to deprive the demonstration of all value and effect. It seemed to me impossible to tie the hands of our naval Commanders to the extent to which such a condition would involve. Suppose, for instance, that Dulcigno were in the possession of the Montenegrins, and an attack upon the town were commenced by an Albanian force, were the vessels of war stationed off the coast to be restricted from firing a shell over the assailants to show that the town was held under the protection of the united Powers?"

It is very probable that in the course of the conversation I expressed, incidentally, my opinion that the occasion for the use of the ships' artillery was not likely to arise, as it certainly was my opinion that the Albanians would not attempt hostilities within range of their guns.

But to give such an assurance as Count de Montebello's words would seem, at first sight, to convey, would have been opposed to the whole course of my argument. It would have been equally inconsistent with the instructions to the naval Commanders of which the draft was communicated to the French Government, and with the proposal which I afterwards made, in order to meet their objections to those instructions, that, as only a portion of the united fleet could be required for any actual operations, the French contingent should in no case be among the vessels detailed for the purpose.

In consequence of the inferences which were drawn from the partial extracts published in this country of Count de Montebello's statement, I thought it necessary, in speaking at Hanley on the 27th ultimo, to disclaim having given the assurance in question. I should have been very sorry that my recollection differed from that of a diplomatist so accurate, so well acquainted with the English language, and so incapable of intentional misrepresentation as Count de Montebello, but I perceive from a later despatch of the 31st July, there is not much difference between us as to the sense of what passed. He writes, "Il (Lord Granville) m'a répété que l'Angleterre n'avait aucune intention de tirer un seul coup de canon; elle se réserve seulement de pouvoir le faire dans le cas très-peu probable où la nécessité absolue s'en ferait sentir." In so far as the above expresses our wish and hope to avoid recourse to active measures against the Albanians, while reserving freedom to resort to them in case of absolute necessity, it may be taken as representing accurately my meaning.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 96.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 144. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 104 and 108, dated respectively the 21st September and the 9th October last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the military authorities of Kuprali (Velessa) have recently arrested and sent to Salonica, to be tried by the local Court-Martial, twenty-three Bulgarians of that town and its neighbourhood.

These Bulgarians are accused of having assisted the brigand bands which infest that district.

The same authorities are also enforcing, in an indiscriminate manner, the law which empowers them to remove from a district in which the state of siege has been proclaimed, all suspicious persons, with their families, who are considered dangerous to the public peace.

Thus, they have deported to Salonica within the last three weeks 110 Bulgarian men, women, and children from the above-named district.

These unfortunate individuals, for the most part poor peasants, will be sent to the district of Cassandra, and there detained under the surveillance of the police until the state of siège is suspended.

Of the persons who are accused of assisting the brigands, three, viz.: Pantos, Theodore, and Nicolas Bogas, have sent me the inclosed, in which they protest their innocence, and implore me to use my good offices to obtain their release.

As all the accounts which I have heard are in their favour, I have availed myself of a suitable opportunity to speak unofficially on the subject to Attif Pasha, the military Commandant and President of the Court-Martial of Salonica.

His Excellency admitted that Messrs. Bogas were arrested upon somewhat doubtful evidence of two brigands recently captured in the district of Kuprali, and assured me

that he would give his serious attention to the matter, and afford all proper facilities to the friends and relatives of the accused to assist them in asserting their innocence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Messrs. Bogas, Brothers, to Consul-General Blunt.

Excellence, *Salonique, le $\frac{9}{21}$ Novembre*, 1880.

NOUS, Soussignés, trois frères habitants de Kuprulu, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Pendant l'été dernier, ayant pris nos familles, qui étaient indisposées à cette époque, nous sommes rendus à notre ferme, située entre Gratsko et Perlipè, pour changement du climat, et pour surveiller la construction de notre hôlet ("han"), situé une demi-heure de distance de notre ferme.

Un jour, pendant nos occupations, s'y sont présentés deux gendarmes, avec un ordre de la part de l'autorité militaire de Kuprulu, pour nous rendre immédiatement à la dite ville. Arrivés là, pendant quatre jours notre habitation fût la prison, et après quelques enquêtes on nous a présentés comme témoins deux malfaiteurs Bulgares, en nous accusant comme quoi nous avons fournis aux brigands des denrées et des munitions de guerre—calomnie épouvantable! terrible!—car nous pouvons prouver officiellement que notre frère aîné, nommé Pantos Bogas, il y a plus d'une année qu'il n'a pas été ni à la ferme, ni au han! quant à nous, la seule occupation était la surveillance de la construction de notre han, et notre séjour était plutôt à la ferme auprès de nos familles qu'au han. Du reste, des hommes comme nous, dont la conduite est connue par notre Gouvernement, car nous avons servi comme trésoriers à Kuprulu pendant six années, à Prisrend pendant deux années, et après tant de services nous voici accusés comme malfaiteurs et brigands, et depuis quinze jours nous nous trouvons en prison ici.

Nous réclamons, Excellence, votre protection sur cette injuste accusation, n'ayant dans ce monde que Dieu et vous qui puissent nous sauver de cette calomnie terrible.

Persuadés d'avance de vos nobles sentiments, nous avons l'honneur d'être, &c.
(Signé) PANTOS BOGAS.
THÉODORE BOGAS.
NICOLAS BOGAS.

No. 97.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

E
(No. 145. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November 24*, 1880.

I HAVE just heard from a trustworthy source that the son of Ilias Pasha, one of the leading Albanians of Dibra, came down here from Dibra last week, and left for Constantinople on the 22nd instant, charged with a memorial to the Sultan from all the Chiefs who attended the late meeting of the Albanian League at Dibra, praying His Majesty that all the vilayets included in North and South Albania should be amalgamated and constituted into one large vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 98.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 564.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 7*, 1880.

THE "Times" of the 3rd instant contains a telegram from its correspondent in Rome respecting a Committee which has been formed, and of which he gives the names of the members, for "rendering, within legal limits, succour to Greece, should she commence a war against Turkey for the enforcement of the Treaty of Berlin," &c.

I confess that the announcement of this Committee in the Italian papers had not been observed by me, but I find that there was a paragraph in small print respecting it in the "Popolo Romano" of the 2nd instant; and M. Cairoli, in a recent interview I had with him, mentioned it casually as a matter of no importance.

Yesterday, when I saw Count Maffei, he spoke of this Committee in much the same terms as those employed by the "Times" correspondent, stating that there was not one of the members who was in the Italian army, and that they were chiefly old Garibaldians, &c.; that they were entirely a self-constituted body, over whose action the Government would, with a view to the maintenance of a strict neutrality, be bound to watch.

He mentioned that a manifesto from this Committee had been placarded over the walls of Rome, but the Government had had it removed.

A *communiqué*, herewith inclosed in translation, appeared in last night's "Diritto" in reference to this manifesto, and Count Maffei mentioned to me an interview between the President of the Council and the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires respecting this Committee, the details of which appear to be pretty correctly given in a paragraph in this morning's "Popolo Romano," which is likewise inclosed in translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Extract from the "Diritto" of December 7, 1880.

(Translation.)

A MANIFESTO has been published, which it was wished to advertise in Rome, by a Committee which calls itself Phil-Hellenic.

Without giving any opinion as to the intentions of the members of this Committee, which we have no compunction in calling generous, we can, however, confidently assert that any attempt at agitation on behalf of the Greek cause would be as opposed to our duties of neutrality as it would be hurtful to the interests of the Greeks themselves.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Extract from the "Popolo Romano" of December 7, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Representative at Rome asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a friendly conversation, for some *renseignements* respecting the Committee which has been formed for the assistance of Greece against Turkey.

The Minister answered that this Committee had been formed with an object rather imaginary than practical, and was therefore of little importance; that some of its members, who bore the titles of officers, were not officers of the army, but former officers of volunteers, and concluded by assuring the Representative of the Porte that the Government would never allow those duties which are imposed on Italy of preserving its good relations with other States to be set at nought by its citizens.

The Turkish Representative thanked M. Cairoli for these assurances, and has communicated them to his Government.

No. 99.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

E
(No. 1152.)

My Lord, *Paris, December 9*, 1880.

I MENTIONED yesterday to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that it appeared from a telegram received by your Lordship from Mr. Goschen that the Ambassadors at Constantinople had collectively invited the Porte to name at once a Commissioner to join the Commissioners of the Six Powers and of Montenegro in delimiting the Dulcigno frontier.

I added that, so far as I knew, the French Commissioner was the only one who was not already at hand in the neighbourhood and ready to begin the work.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he had not yet received from M. Tissot information of the decision of the Ambassadors, but that he had telegraphed to desire him to send at once a report of the steps taken by them.

His Excellency added that he had had the day before an interview with M. de St. Quentin, the French Commissioner, who had stated that he was of course ready to set out instantly if ordered to do so, but that the country through which the frontier was to pass must be at this moment under water.

His Excellency said, in conclusion, that he was quite prepared to send M. de St. Quentin off at once, if it was settled that the delimitation should be proceeded with.

I said that the information received by Her Majesty's Government did not confirm M. de St. Quentin's opinion as to the difficulty of proceeding with the work at this season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 100.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10, 5 P.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December* 10, 1880, 3 P.M.

THE Montenegrins are protesting because Turks are continuing to hold villages of Kalimun and Leskovce, and, in consequence, refuse to give the Turks the receipt stipulated in Convention of the 25th ultimo.

But this Convention specifies only that the district of Duleigno should be ceded, and the two above-mentioned villages are outside the boundary of that district.

No. 101.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 56 of to-day, Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs has acquainted me that the formal acknowledgment of having taken possession of the district of Duleigno has been given to the Turkish Governor-General.

No. 102.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 249.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December* 10, 1880.

LEADING article to-day in "Agence Russe" reverts to idea of giving Crete to Greece instead of Janina.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 795.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1880.

I COMMUNICATED to your Excellency a copy of the note which Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia addressed to M. Zancoff on the 25th October last, bringing formally under the notice of the Bulgarian Government the non-fulfilment of certain provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, to which Mr. Lascelles had been directed, by my despatch No. 122 of the 27th September, to call their attention.

In his despatch No. 167 of the 1st ultimo, which passed through your hands, and which your Excellency will find printed in the Eastern correspondence, Mr. Lascelles reported a conversation which he had had on the subject with Prince Alexander.

The further despatch from Mr. Lascelles, inclosing a copy of the reply of the Bulgarian Government, has also passed through your Excellency's hands, and I transmit a copy of it herewith.

Your Excellency will have observed that the statements contained in that reply are at variance with the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government, which has been from time to time communicated to you, and that whilst disputing the accuracy

of the allegations respecting the state of the fortresses on the Danube, the Bulgarian Government omit all reference to the XIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which stipulates that all the fortifications in the Principality should be destroyed, and no new ones erected.

The Bulgarian Government have communicated to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers the reply which they have made to Mr. Lascelles' note, and your Excellency's despatch No. 749 of the 24th ultimo has made me acquainted with the view taken by Baron Haymerle of the explanations contained in it.

Before noticing the tone of General Ehnrooth's despatch, I should wish to ascertain what representations the Austro-Hungarian Government have recently made to the Government of the Principality with regard to its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin, and whether Baron Haymerle would be prepared to instruct the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Sophia to address further remonstrances to Prince Alexander's Government, either singly or jointly with Her Majesty's Agent, more especially with regard to the complete fulfilment of the XIth and LIInd Articles of the Treaty, or whether it might be desirable first to obtain more precise information as to the present state of the fortresses by the appointment of an International Commission of military officers, as has been suggested by Prince Alexander.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 750.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1880.

I CONCUR in the opinion expressed by Mr. Goschen in his despatch No. 585 of the 19th ultimo, as to the mode of dealing with the claims of British subjects in the Porte, and I approve the note which his Excellency addressed to Assim Pasha on the matters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 348. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880.

ON Thursday morning, the 25th instant, at two hours before dawn, I was summoned by the Prince to the Palace, where I found His Highness with Voïvodas Marcho Verbitza and Stanko Radonich, the Ministers of the Interior and for Foreign Affairs, busily engaged in sending telegraphic orders to the different Captains of districts.

On my entry the Prince said to me that he had sent to inform me that he had just learnt from M. Bojo Petrovich that Bedri Bey, the Turkish Delegate, had insisted upon the commencement of the surrender of the Duleigno district for noon on the following day (Friday, the 26th), and His Highness added to me that this was rather sharp practice on the part of the Turks.

I replied that, however short the notice might be, I felt His Highness could not complain that he had been taken by surprise, for I had not failed to warn him from the commencement of the, so to say, acute stage of the Duleigno question, that its termination would be sudden, and that he must be prepared at any moment to meet it; and, furthermore, that during the last few days my representations had been so pressing that I could not believe His Highness could claim any indulgence for being found in a state of unreadiness.

The Prince hereupon laughed, and said he had merely wanted to cause me "a moment of emotion," and that he could assure me that, at the appointed hour on the following morning, his cousin, M. Bojo Petrovich, would be at the head of a sufficient force to advance and enter into possession of all the positions of the ceded district now held by the Turks.

In fact, I had observed as I was proceeding to the Palace, in the faint light of

approaching morning, single figures of the Prince's body-guard silently hurrying away to different mountain-tops and signal-stations, to give notice before the peasants had dispersed to their work for the day, that the Prince required their immediate presence at the appointed military centres.

By 9 o'clock the main road through Cettinjé was crowded with mountaineers answering the summons, and who, as they hurriedly passed through the town, only paused at the bakeries to fill their wallets with the bread which the sudden call to arms had prevented them from obtaining in their own homes.

I will, however, leave to Captain Sale the duty of reporting to your Lordship the remarkable manner in which the Montenegrin Government has been able to collect, almost in less than twenty-four hours, at a point far distant from its base, a military force sufficiently strong to enter safely a district where, but the day before, the Albanians and Turkish troops had come into collision with each other. Your Lordship will probably consider it enough for me to announce that the town and district of Dulcigno came yesterday into the peaceable possession of Montenegro, as had been firmly required by the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 106.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 349. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 29, 1880.*

I HAVE already had the honour of informing your Lordship by telegraph that the Montenegrin Government is anxious that the Boundary Commission should complete without further delay its work for the frontier between the sea and the western shores of Lake Scutari, and which comprises the newly-acquired district of Dulcigno; and I now have the honour to transmit a copy of a *note verbale* communicated to me this day by Voïvoda Radonich on the subject of the misunderstanding which has arisen between the Turkish and Montenegrin military Commanders concerning the possession of the frontier point of San Giorgio, in the vicinity of the River Boyana.

If there are no technical or other paramount military reasons against it, I would strongly recommend that the Boundary Commission should terminate its work in a quarter where it is desirable that the natives and other parties most concerned should understand that nothing remains for future discussion or settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 106.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{17}{29}$ *Novembre*, 1880.

LE Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Monténégrine informe le Gouvernement Princier que, contrairement à la Convention signée le $\frac{13}{25}$ courant à Kounia, un détachement de l'armée Impériale Ottomane a refusé d'évacuer le village de San Giorgio, situé en deçà de la ligne-frontière de la proposition Anglaise non loin du confluent de la Boyana et de la petite rivière sortant du Lac Sas.

A la suite de ce refus le Voïvode Bojidar Petrovich n'a pas cru pouvoir délivrer au Muchir Dervich Pacha l'Acte de prise de possession du district de Dulcigno. Portant ce qui précède à la connaissance des Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Cettigné le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Monténégro a l'honneur de les prier de vouloir bien en informer leurs Gouvernements et croit saisir d'autant plus cette occasion pour renouveler à MM. les Représentants la prière qu'il a eu l'honneur de leur adresser par sa note en date du $\frac{15}{27}$ courant.

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

E
(No. 350. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 30, 1880.*

LAST night I had the honour of being invited, on the eve of my departure on the leave granted to me by your Lordship, to a dinner at the Palace.

I was the only foreign guest present, but all the ecclesiastical dignitaries and civil and military functionaries of State were there to (as Prince Nicholas informed me) mark the sense of gratitude of Montenegro towards the British nation for having mainly contributed to give the Principality a position in the European family which had hitherto been denied to it, and which it was the determination of its people to show its worthiness to possess.

Later in the evening the Prince asked me, in the presence of his Ministers, to declare to Her Majesty's Government, in his name and that of his country, that England had acquired the right to require of Montenegro, at any and at all times, to be guided by her advice. His Highness said he did not wish to diminish the value of the ties which exist between Montenegro and Russia, nor of the obligations of the Principality towards the Austrian Empire; but, nevertheless, he solemnly declared that neither of these would ever be found to outweigh the counsels of Her Majesty's Government.

The satisfaction shown to me by the Prince and Princess, and all other Montenegrins, at the settlement of their frontier has been so genuine, and their determination to attribute it nearly entirely to the disinterested action of the English has been so evident, that I have no hesitation in expressing the belief that, on all important occasions when the foreign relations of the Principality are concerned, the wishes of the British Government will undoubtedly meet with the attention which has now been spontaneously promised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 108.

E *Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)*
(No. 1137.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 10, 1880.*

AT an interview which I had with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire at the French Foreign Office the day before yesterday his Excellency told me that he had been speaking in the most serious manner to M. Bratlas, the Greek Minister at Paris, who had just left him.

He had, he said, warned M. Bratlas, in the most impressive language he could command, of the danger to which Greece would expose herself if she rushed into so wild an enterprise as the attempt to wrest from the Turks by her own unassisted efforts the territory allotted to her by the Conference of Berlin.

He had entreated M. Bratlas to exhort his countrymen to prudence and patience, but he could not say that M. Bratlas had held out much hope that such counsels would prevail in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 109.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

E
(No. 1138. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 10, 1880.*

I HAVE heard, but not directly, from the Office itself, that a plan of settling the Greek frontier question by means of arbitration has been under consideration at the French Foreign Office.

The plan would seem to be to substitute the arbitration of the Six Powers for the mediation, which is all they can now exercise under the Treaty of Berlin, and, as a first step, to persuade both Greece and Turkey to submit the question to this arbitration, and to bind themselves beforehand to submit to the award. This being done the Powers

would, it appears to be argued, occupy a much more advantageous position than they do now, inasmuch as they would be entitled to insist absolutely upon the execution of whatever award they might make.

The notion would appear to be that, in order to induce Turkey to submit to the arbitration, it might be whispered to her that, if she did so, the Powers would give her a more advantageous frontier than that adopted by the Conference of Berlin.

What inducement would be held out to Greece I have not heard.

Nor do I know to what extent it is contemplated that France might go in enforcing the award if either party should, in the end, decline or delay to execute it.

The scheme certainly does not appear to present at present a very practical appearance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 110.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 11.)

Admiralty, December 10, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 2nd December, forwarding copy of a letter received by him from the Prince of Montenegro, expressing His Highness' acknowledgments to the Vice-Admiral and his naval colleagues in connection with the Dulcigno question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Monarch," Teodo Bay, December 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter I received last night from the Prince of Montenegro.

2. As desired by His Highness, I have communicated the same to my colleagues, the Admirals and officers in command of the foreign squadrons forming the combined fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

The Prince of Montenegro to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Cettinje, le $\frac{15}{30}$ Novembre, 1880.

Excellence,

APRÈS bien de péripéties la question de Dulcigno a enfin reçue une solution satisfaisante.

Le Monténégro en est redevable à l'attitude bienveillante des Grandes Puissances qui ont suivi avec un accord si parfait l'initiation généreuse de la Grande Bretagne dans toutes les vicissitudes de cette question.

Cet accord a reçu son expression dans l'envoi dans nos parages de la flotte combinée, placée sous le commandement de votre Excellence, et, grâce à l'attitude ferme des Puissances revendiquant nos droits, les escadres Européennes n'ont pas été appelées à procéder à des mesures coercitives: leur présence seule a suffi pour arriver au but que les Cabinets Européens se proposaient d'atteindre.

Pouvant apprécier plus que tout autre le rôle important que la flotte combinée a joué dans l'arrangement final de cette question, je me fais un agréable devoir de vous en

exprimer, M. l'Amiral, ma profonde reconnaissance, en vous priant de vouloir bien vous faire également l'interprète de mes sentiments auprès de vos collègues.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NICOLAS.

No. 111.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 752.)

Foreign Office, December 11, 1880.

Sir,

IN accordance with the suggestion put forward by Mr. Goschen in his Excellency's despatch No. 610 of the 26th ultimo, I have to instruct you to inform the Porte generally of the representations which Her Majesty's Government have addressed to that of Bulgaria in consequence of the failure of the Principality to comply with certain provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 39.)

Foreign Office, December 11, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 34 of the 30th ultimo, giving an account of the manner in which the cession of Dulcigno was carried out, and I approve your having accompanied the Montenegrin General on the occasion of his entering the city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 766. Extender.)

Vienna, November 28, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, inquiring what the Austro-Hungarian Government considered it advisable to do as to the Montenegrin frontier to the north of the Lake of Scutari when the cession of Dulcigno was completed, was immediately communicated to Baron Haymerle.

His Excellency thinks that the Powers must set aside the April arrangement and approve the new line in lieu of it by a formal instrument before steps are taken for marking it out.

He considers further that, before the delimitation is proceeded with on either side of the lake, sufficient time, probably two or three weeks, should be allowed to pass in order to permit the excitement at present existing in North Albania to subside.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 114.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 768. Extender.)

Vienna, November 28, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING been myself unable to go to Baron Haymerle this morning, I requested Mr. Fraser to see his Excellency, and to endeavour to get an answer to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th, which had been immediately communicated to him.

He stated to Mr. Fraser in very distinct terms that he considered the naval

demonstration to have been brought to an end by the cession of Dulcigno, and that he did not desire to take any step which would prolong it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 115.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 771. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 30, 1880.*

AS already reported to your Lordship by telegraph, I this morning communicated to Baron Haymerle your yesterday's telegram expressing the strong hope of Her Majesty's Government that Austria would not dissociate herself from the other Powers as to the form of the proposed separation of the united squadrons, and his Excellency firmly declined to recede from the decision which he had before announced.

No argument that I could use to induce him to reconsider it sufficed to get him to show even an appearance of hesitation.

He said that, according to the original understanding embodied in the instructions which it was agreed to give to the Admirals, the cession of Dulcigno *ipso facto* put an end to the demonstration.

I remarked that these instructions had not been communicated by his Excellency to the Delegations, and that they did not therefore prevent him from being perfectly free to agree to follow, in concert with the other Powers, the course now proposed, especially as, the Austrian ships being in their own waters, it would be easy without ostentation to arrange for a future meeting.

He replied that public opinion in this country had from the first regarded the demonstration with disfavour, and as a sword of Damocles suspended over the general tranquillity, which it might at any moment disturb, and that, though it was true that he had not formally communicated the instructions to the Admirals to the Delegations, he had nevertheless stated that with the cession of Dulcigno the demonstration would end; and now that this result had been obtained, it was impossible for him to recede from a pledge which had given universal satisfaction to the whole country.

He did not see any benefit to be got by maintaining the appearance of a demonstration for which there was no definite object, and its effect would be only to keep alive the feeling of insecurity under which all Europe had so long been suffering. It was only, he supposed, upon the Greek question that a second resort to such a measure could be contemplated, but nothing could be done in regard to this before the spring, and, if a fresh demonstration should then be proposed, and indeed desirable, the Imperial vessels would always be within easy reach and no loss of time or other inconvenience would result from their now returning to their usual stations.

It is right that I should mention confidentially that, before the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was made to Baron Haymerle by your Lordship, he had been informed of it both from Paris and St. Petersburgh in terms rather different from those in which I was instructed to convey it to him, and implying that the squadrons, after separating, would be liable to be summoned to reassemble by Sir B. Seymour; but, though it is probable that this predisposed him at once to decline to accede to your Lordship's proposal when it was submitted to him, there is no reason for supposing that his decision would in any case have been different, for the moment when an attitude of coercion could be abandoned had been longed for by the Austrian Government with a daily increasing impatience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 116.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 773. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 30, 1880.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Government have received from their Minister at Cettinjé a communication from the Montenegrin Government similar to that sent to your Lordship

by Mr. Green in his telegram of the 28th instant, urging the immediate reassembling of the Delimitation Commission to fix the boundary-marks of the new frontier between the sea and the Lake of Scutari.

Colonel Thoemmel has been instructed to inform the Montenegrin Government, in reply, that, if there is good ground for believing that the Commissioners could carry out their work without risk or molestation, Baron Haymerle would consider it desirable that they should immediately proceed to mark out the boundary, but he wishes, in the first instance, to be satisfied upon this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 117.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 776. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 852, I have the honour to inform you that Baron Haymerle says that he is willing to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate upon the best mode of proceeding to the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier; but the accounts of the calming of the excitement in the Dulcigno district were so favourable that it was believed at Cettinjé that the Commissioners could, without risk, carry out the work of demarcation, and he therefore thought it desirable that the request of the Prince should be complied with, and that the marks of the boundary between the sea and the Lake of Scutari should be placed at once.

His Excellency considered, however, that Dervish Pasha should be called upon to take the measures that might be necessary for the security of the Commissioners from his side of the frontier.

Although the line so marked by the Commissioners would not possess an international character till formally confirmed by a Convention, it would still practically set at rest all question regarding that portion of the frontier, and put an end to agitation or excitement about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 118.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 779. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 3, 1880.*

THE draft of the answer to be sent to Count Károlyi about the separation of the combined fleets was shown to me this afternoon by M. de Kállay.

After thanking Her Majesty's Government and Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour for the manner in which the demonstration had been combined and carried out, it states that, the demonstration having come to an end by the cession of Dulcigno, if it is desired that the different squadrons shall separate simultaneously, the Austrian Commander will be directed to take his ships to sea with the others, when, upon receiving from Admiral Seymour the signal to separate, they will proceed to the destination that may be fixed for them by the Emperor.

I remarked to M. de Kállay that this last phrase would not meet the wishes which I had been instructed by your Lordship to convey to the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 781. Confidential.)

Vienna, December 3, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. KIRBY GREEN, in his despatches to your Lordship Nos. 340 and 341, Confidential, of the 9th and 10th ultimo, on the subject of the arms that are being procured by the Montenegrin Government, observed that the Austro-Hungarian Government had been surprised at finding the order for rifles increased from 6,000 to 20,000, and that they were evidently jealous of the secret share taken by Russia in the transaction, but that a person in the confidence of the Prince had assured him that Austria would not be able to prevent him from obtaining the number he desired.

I apprehend that Mr. Green's remarks should be taken as applying to the feeling which he supposes to be entertained by the Austrian Agents in Montenegro, rather than to that of their Government, for, as I mentioned to your Lordship in my Confidential despatch No. 635 of the 11th October, Baron Haymerle informed me that the Montenegrin Minister of War had asked for assistance for the payment of 20,000 rifles which it was proposed to order (the exact number spoken of by Mr. Green), and, finding that this could not be given here, had intimated that the Russian Government would be applied to, which his Excellency thought quite natural.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E

(No. 782. Very Confidential.)

Vienna, December 4, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE informs me that he understands that M. de Moüy, the new French Minister at Athens, had, upon his arrival there, not only warned the Greek Government that if they provoked hostilities with Turkey, they need expect no assistance from France to save them from the consequences of their rashness, but had reminded them on the part of his Government that, although the Powers had indicated the new frontiers to which they wished to see the Greek Kingdom extended, they had never fixed any period within which this was to be brought about.

The Powers must, therefore, judge of the opportuneness of the moment.

Baron Haymerle, in mentioning this to me, appeared entirely to adopt the same view of the question. He had, he said, emphatically warned the King of Greece, when he was at Vienna in the summer, that His Majesty must not delude himself by any fallacious hope of receiving aid from Austria if of his own initiative he should attack Turkey.

I asked his Excellency what I was to understand him to hold the position of the Powers to be upon this question.

He replied that under the Treaty of Berlin their position could not be doubtful; it was that of mediators between Turkey and Greece, and it would be their business to mediate so as to obtain for the latter as nearly as possible the frontier of the Conference, but that it did not seem obligatory upon them to obtain the whole at once.

I objected that the argument he was now using seemed to differ materially from the ground that had been taken after the Conference; at the Congress it had been agreed that the Powers were to mediate between Turkey and Greece if they could not come to an arrangement between themselves; but the decision come to by the Conference had ever since been regarded as a definite Award, and not as the basis of negotiation with the Porte, upon which an abatement would be allowed.

His Excellency said he could not admit that the Powers held any other position than that of mediators; though the precise limits within which they should confine their mediation could not at present be defined; they must still aim at getting for Greece the frontier of the Conference; and he had no doubt of their being ultimately successful, even if obliged to be contented with less for the moment, and to wait for the proper opportunity for obtaining the rest.

Your Lordship will gather from this language, held to me in an entirely confidential conversation by Baron Haymerle, that if the Porte were to offer a sufficiently extensive

cession of territory to Greece, although much within the line of the Conference, his Excellency may be expected to be in favour of its provisional acceptance. This appeared to me conclusive from a remark that he made when I asked what he thought likely to result from the direct negotiations which the Porte was said to be about to open with Greece.

He replied that what he thought most likely was that Turkey would offer too little, and Greece ask too much, to which I rejoined that as Greece was not likely to ask more than was proposed by the Conference, it must be assumed that he thought that too much.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E

(No. 784. Extender.)

Vienna, December 4, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH no expectation had been held out to me yesterday that any change would be made in the answer that had been prepared with reference to your Lordship's proposal for the separation of the combined fleets, Baron Haymerle informed me this morning that being anxious to do all in his power to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, he had modified it in a way that he hoped would be agreeable to them.

Instead, therefore, of saying that the ships would proceed to the destinations fixed for them by the Emperor, he was relying that, in the event of all the squadrons quitting the Bay of Teodo simultaneously, the Imperial vessels have received orders to accompany the others to sea, and then to return to their stations in the Austrian ports.

The station of the one is, I believe, Pola, and of the other Cattaro.

The answer, as finally settled, maintains the statement that the demonstration had been brought to an end by the cession of Dulcigno, and Baron Haymerle repeated to me to-day that it would be impossible for him to modify this view.

When I reminded him that it had been agreed that the demonstration might, if necessary, be applied to the Greek Frontier question, he replied that if hereafter a similar course was thought desirable either for the Greek or any other question, it must be as an essentially new measure, and not a continuation of the demonstration that must now be regarded as terminated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E

(No. 789. Confidential.)

Vienna, December 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WHILE attempts are being made to represent the separation of the ships forming the allied fleet at Cattaro as indicating the dissolution of the European concert, Baron Haymerle maintains the direct contrary to be the truth, and that the concert not only exists, but is much more likely to continue now that there is no longer a danger of the necessity of having to employ the ships in measures in regard to which a difference in the views of the Powers could hardly have failed soon to manifest itself.

The Austrian Minister looks upon the concert as having been established as the best means of obtaining a "pacific" execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, by the weight which must attach to the language of the Treaty Powers when unanimously expressed.

A resort to actual measures of hostility would have been a proof that the concert had failed in obtaining the pacific solution of the question which was hoped for from it, and the continuance of an armed demonstration would also have been evidence of a want of confidence in the efficacy of the concert for the object for which it was called into existence.

His Excellency would not, therefore, conceal the satisfaction that it gave him to know that the demonstration was at an end, and to think that the concert would continue unimpaired, and, he hoped, strengthened.

When several Powers agreed to act together it was not to be expected that they would all be found of exactly the same opinion as to the best step to take upon every occasion, and he could not admit that the concert was either broken up or weakened, because some Powers considered the late demonstration as absolutely at an end, whilst others wished that there should merely be a separation of the demonstrating squadrons.

I asked Baron Haymerle whether he seriously believed that Dulcigno would now have been given up if there had been no demonstration, and he frankly admitted that he did not think it would, but when I added that without the threat of the occupation of Smyrna the question would probably have still been unsettled, he withheld any acquiescence in the opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 790. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a despatch from Athens upon the Greek Government's recent purchases of artillery, which has been communicated to me confidentially by Baron Haymerle.

The writer speaks very strongly of the extravagant nature of these transactions, and the inappropriate character of the guns so purchased in view of operations in the mountainous and roadless districts of Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Baron von Wacken to Baron Haymerle.

(Confidential.)
(Translation.) *Athens, November 6, 1880.*

THE Commoundouros Ministry is arming the country in a manner at once much more energetic and much less regardful of its finances than has hitherto been employed.

Krupp's agent, who has taken up his abode here permanently, is at this moment treating with the Government for the delivery of the following arms:—

1. Three mountain batteries (6 shots, 7·5 centim. calibre).
2. Four field batteries (6 shots, 7·5 centim. calibre).
3. One heavy field battery (6 shots, 8·7 centim. calibre).
4. Two batteries of siege guns (6 shots, 10 centim. calibre).
5. One battery of rifled mortars ("gezogene mörser," 8 shots, 15 centim. calibre.)

The batteries 1 and 5 are to be delivered in three months; 2 and 3 in four and a half months; the siege guns marked 4 in seven months. The entire cost amounts to 2,441,151 fr., or, with a deduction on account of immediate payment, to about 2,415,000 fr.

I am told that this agreement is not yet signed, but may be considered as concluded.

It is curious, in view of purchases of artillery which are colossal in relation to the strength of the army and the financial condition of the country, whilst the greater part of the guns themselves are hardly capable of use in mountainous Epirus and roadless Thessaly, that the Greek army, although it has been armed with Krupp guns for more than two years, has, on grounds of economy, never yet undertaken any shooting practice. They seem to think that in getting together all the men they can collect, and providing as many and as heavy cannons as possible, they have done all that is required for the training of an army.

Besides this, the Government has ordered two new gun-boats in England, which

appear to be intended for the navigation of the narrow entrance of the harbour of Prevesa. These also are to be delivered within a short time.

The Government finds itself naturally compelled to negotiate a new loan in order to be able to defray the expense of this armament. I am told that 120 to 150 millions will be raised in this way. I hear that the Finance Minister, Sotiropoulos, belongs to the war party in the Cabinet, who shrink from no sacrifice in the matter of finance where military efficiency is concerned.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 791.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 8, 1880.*

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 748 of the 15th ultimo, I had inquired whether the Austro-Hungarian Government had yet made up their mind upon the question of the Servian Agrarian Law, and I have again spoken to Baron Haymerle on the subject, but have not been able to obtain any very definite statement from him.

He said, however, that he would always be ready to support the maintenance of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and he did not consider that the new Servian Law was in accordance with them, at any rate as regards the emigrated Mussulman proprietors.

The Servian Government had mixed up two questions which were essentially different, that is to say, the proprietary rights and what may be called the feudal rights of the landowners.

The Treaty provided that the former should be respected, but had not perpetuated the latter, which it was desirable to get rid of, though it should be done with due regard to the rights of property.

The question was an extremely complicated one, and the Austro-Hungarian Government, having had to deal with it in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, had been examining the old Turkish laws to find what the rights properly were, and what had grown up from an abuse of them, and this was not yet clear.

In returning this answer, Baron Haymerle gave me to understand that, being very undesirous of causing any embarrassment to the new Servian Ministry, he was not anxious to see the question agitated till after the approaching elections for the Skupschina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November 29, 1880.*

THE recruitment for the Bulgarian army for this year has now been completed, with the result that about 2,500 Mussulmans, or one-third of the number of recruits, have been enrolled in the Bulgarian army.

Nihad Pasha has informed me that, in consequence of his representations, M. Zancoff had agreed that the Mussulman recruits should be allowed to accompany their families if they determined to emigrate.

General Ehrnrooth, the Minister of War, who has always been opposed to the enlistment of Mussulmans, is fully alive to the danger of turning the Turkish population into soldiers; and he thinks it would have been far more politic to have exempted the Mussulmans from military service, and to have levied a tax upon them instead.

There can be little doubt that the Bulgarian Government entertained the hope that the majority of the Mussulman population would prefer emigration to military service, but it appears that this has not been the case to any great extent; and General Ehrnrooth is of opinion that, when the Mussulmans serving in the army find that they are not molested, they will make no attempt to evade the service.

I understand that strict orders have been given that the religious observances of the

Mussulmans are to be respected, and that they are not to be compelled to wear the cross upon the "kalpak" which forms part of the Bulgarian uniform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 126.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch of the 22nd ultimo, which Mr. Vice-Consul Baker has addressed to me, and in which he gives a very interesting account of the Russian demonstration recently held at Alexinatz. I may add that the tenour of this report agrees entirely with the information received by the French Envoy here from his Consular Agent at Nisch, who was likewise present on the occasion referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Sir, *Nisch, November 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 20th instant I attended the inauguration of the Russian memorial at Alexinatz; and as this monument and the circumstances attending its inauguration are supposed to constitute an evidence of Russian influence in Servia, I beg to give you the following details:—

1. The memorial is about 40 feet high, and consists of an obelisk resting on a square base (both of red sandstone), approached by a flight of four steps of grey limestone. On one side of the base is inscribed in Servian, "Memorial to the heroic fallen Russian Volunteers who in 1876 came to the help of the Servians at the time of their unequal combat with the Turkish Empire." On another side of the base is written (also in Servian), "Erected by their countrymen, 1880;" and on a third side is written in old Slavonic, "Greater love hath no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

2. The monument is situate on a hill called Rouievitza, about a quarter of a mile from (and overlooking) the town on the south-east side.

3. The Prince of Servia was represented on the occasion by his Adjutant-Major Simonevitch; the Emperor of Russia by M. Persiani, Russian Minister Plenipotentiary to Servia; the Servian Government by the Minister of Public Worship, M. Stoïan Novakovitch; the Servian Learned Society by M. M. Militchevitch; the Servian army by General Beli-Markovitch; and the Belgrade High School by Professor Kouïoumdjitch. General Tchernaieff, the Servian Commander-in-chief during the war of 1876, represented the subscribers to the memorial, amongst whom the Moscow Slavonic Committee and several exalted Russian personages are supposed to be included.

4. Invitations to the ceremony had been issued "broad cast," and the weather being fine there were nearly 10,000 persons present at the inauguration, though a large proportion of them were doubtless attracted by curiosity or the free dinner given to all who chose to ask for it.

5. At 10 o'clock a solemn high mass was sung in the church by the Metropolitan of Servia, Michael, assisted by the Archbishop of Nisch, the Bishop of Negotin, four Archimandrites, and numerous priests, the music being sung by a choir of about twenty voices from Belgrade. A procession was then formed, and proceeded along the principal street (decorated with flags and triumphal arches) to the monument. There the memorial was solemnly blessed by the Metropolitan, who afterwards delivered an eloquent "beseda" or speech, in which he alluded to the fallen Russian volunteers as "our dear brothers," who "brought us help in our unequal combat with the enemy of our faith, our freedom, our fatherland, our nation; who spilt their blood for us and left their bones amongst us." The "beseda" concluded, a battalion of infantry fired three volleys and a battery of artillery 101 shots in honour of the fallen volunteers.

6. In the evening General Tchernaieff gave a banquet to about 200 of the principal

guests, at which numerous speeches in praise of the Russian volunteers and a fraternity between Russia and Servia were made by the Metropolitan, General Beli-Markovitch, General Tchernaieff, M. Persiani, and others, and over a hundred telegrams of sympathy were received from the present and the late Servian Ministers and other prominent Servians of all political parties and social classes. I was requested to propose the health of the Russian Minister Plenipotentiary, in doing which I simply alluded to the cordial relations existing between Her Majesty's Government and those of the Emperor and Prince Milan.

7. Whilst in Alexinatz I took the opportunity of ascertaining from the principal persons brought together by the occasion their opinions with regard to Russian influence in Servia. Those opinions confirmed information I had previously obtained from various sources, that the Servian clergy (who are, as a rule, poor and ignorant) are subject to Russian influence in the shape of money as well as of honours. But the influence does not, except to a very limited degree, extend to the laity, who, whilst grateful to Russia for material assistance given in times past, are not satisfied that the kind and degree of help given by Russia in 1876 were any positive gain to Servia; and as to the monument itself, many complain that as nearly 2,000 Servians fell at Alexinatz and only a handful of the Russian volunteers, the memorial is quite out of place at Alexinatz, and should have been erected (if at all) at Djunis, where the Russian loss is admitted to have been considerable. The generally prevailing sentiment is one of fear lest Russia should sacrifice Servian interests to Austria or to a "great Bulgaria," and this fear is much intensified since the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, to which two provinces Servians of all classes look upon themselves as the heirs. An eminent Servian ecclesiastic expressed himself to me yesterday in this sense, but added that Russia had done much in many ways to secure the gratitude of the Servian clergy, and that it would be unjust and impolitic not to express it to the extreme limit compatible with patriotism. Judged by the light of these facts, the great demonstration at Alexinatz cannot be taken as evidence of a real, lasting, and effective Russian influence in Servia, though it is equally clear that money and rewards from Russian sources do affect temporarily the conduct and utterances of individuals (chiefly clerical) who have, or, from their positions, ought to have, a great influence on their Servian fellow-countrymen.

I am &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

No. 127.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December 7, 1880.*

IT is to be inferred from many petty though significant incidents which have come under my personal observation that the influence of Austria-Hungary with Prince Milan and his advisers is paramount for the moment, and that this sudden and unexpected revulsion of feeling is strongly resented by Russia and her numerous partizans in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 128.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 368.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose (in duplicate) a French translation of a Royal Decree, dated $\frac{17}{29}$th November, mobilizing the naval forces of Greece.

By this Ordinance the Minister of Marine is authorized to call out for service all men aged from 22 to 26 years, classed as "sea labourers," who had been provisionally exempted from military service.

The number of men to be called out is limited by this Decree to 3,000.

This Decree was communicated to the Chamber, according to the law, the day after it was promulgated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Decree dated November 17, 1880.

Ordonnance de Mobilisation de l'Armée de Mer.

Georges Ier, Roi des Hellènes,

VU la loi OXA du 12 courant sur l'augmentation de l'effectif de l'armée de mer en temps de mobilisation ou de guerre, sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Marine, avons décidé et ordonnons :

Article 1er. L'armée de mer est mobilisé; pendant la durée de la mobilisation l'effectif pourra être porté jusqu'à 3,000 hommes.

Art. 2. Pour compléter, selon l'Article précédent, l'effectif de l'armée de mer, sont appelés, outre les retardataires des précédentes levées et les ouvriers de mer de la levée actuelle, les hommes composant la réserve et les cadres de disponibilité selon les Article 65 et 66 de la Loi de Recrutement.

Art. 3. L'appel des réservistes et des hommes en disponibilité aura lieu tout à la fois ou par classes, selon les besoins du service, à commencer toujours par la classe la moins âgée.

Art. 4. La présente Ordonnance sera communiquée à la Chambre à sa première séance à partir d'aujourd'hui.

Notre Ministre de la Marine est chargé de la promulgation et de l'exécution de la présente Ordonnance.

Athènes, le 17 Novembre, 1880.

(Signé) GEORGES.

(Signé) G. BOUBOULIS.

Appel de l'Armée de Mer.

Georges Ier, &c.,

Vu la loi OXA du 12 courant sur l'augmentation d'effectif de l'armée de mer en temps de mobilisation ou de guerre; et notre Ordonnance de ce jour sur la mobilisation de l'armée de mer, sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Marine, etc.

Sont appelés à servir dans l'armée de mer, pour le présent, les ouvriers de mer âgés de 22, 23, et 24 ans, et ceux qui ayant 21 ans n'ont pas encore été appelés et sont restés en disponibilité.

Notre Ministre de la Marine, &c.

Athènes, le 17 Novembre, 1880.

(Signé) GEORGES.

(Signé) G. BOUBOULIS.

Aussitôt après la promulgation de ces deux Ordonnances le Ministre de la Marine a envoyé une Circulaire aux autorités des ports chargés des opérations du recrutement de l'armée de mer.

No. 129.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1 .)

(No. 554. Extender.)

My Lord, *Berlin, December* 3, 1880.

AFTER submitting to His Majesty the Emperor your Lordship's proposal to name a place or places to which the German ships should proceed from Cattaro, and the Commander-in-chief thereupon be authorized to give the signal to part company, Count Limburg Stirum has just informed me that His Majesty having sanctioned the measure, orders would be sent to the German Commander to depart with Sir Beauchamp Seymour and proceed to Malta, or any other place the German Admiralty might think it necessary to select.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 130.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 556. Confidential. Extender.)

My Lord, *Berlin, December* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 554 of this day's date, I have been confidentially informed that the German Admiralty has informed the Foreign Office that the German frigate "Victoria" may have to proceed to Trieste instead of Malta to refit, after parting company with the Admiral commanding-in-chief.

The "Victoria" will, later on, be placed under orders for the West India station.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 131.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 560. Extender.)

My Lord, *Berlin, December* 3, 1880.

I FOUND Count Limburg Stirum already acquainted with Baron Haymerle's views respecting the immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier, when I communicated to his Excellency the substance of your Lordship's telegram of this morning, and told him that Her Majesty's Government were willing to send instructions to Mr. Goschen in the sense desired by Baron Haymerle, if the other Powers agreed.

Count Limburg said that the German Government did agree with that of Her Majesty, and would send instructions to Count Hatzfeldt to-day to concert with Mr. Goschen before his departure, and with his other colleagues on the subject; and that the German Commissioner at Ragusa would also be told to hold himself in readiness to proceed with his colleagues to the immediate delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier, if decided upon at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 132.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 585. Extender.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 4, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 243 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I learn by a private note, copy of which is herewith inclosed,* from M. de Giers, that the Russian Admiral has been directed to proceed to Naples with two of the ships under his orders. The third ship of the Russian squadron now taking part in the naval demonstration on the Montenegrin question will return to her former station at the Piræus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 133.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

E

(No. 586. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 4, 1880.

I CALLED this afternoon at the Foreign Department to pay my first official visit to M. de Giers after his return from Livadia.

His Excellency received me in the most friendly manner, and detained me a long time, talking over the various events which had passed while he had been absent in the Crimea.

* Not received at the Foreign Office.

M. de Giers expressed marked satisfaction at the completion of the cession of Dulcigno. Although in itself only a small step, he considered it a very important one, as it proved that the European concert could still force the Sultan to yield to reason, in spite of the difficulties caused by the necessity of consulting so many Powers before the smallest move could be made.

The European concert, in its active form, was now about to be broken up; but so much good had resulted from it that he hoped your Lordship would not be discouraged, but would still endeavour to keep the Powers acting together, if only to a smaller extent.

His Excellency next alluded in flattering terms to the speech which your Lordship delivered on the 27th ultimo at Hanley, and expressed pleasure at the manner in which you had borne witness to the friendly relations now existing between Russia and Great Britain. He said this friendly feeling of Her Majesty's Government towards Russia had also been agreeably proved to the Imperial Government by the great courtesy which Sir Beauchamp Seymour had always shown to the Admiral and officers of the Russian squadron at Gravosa.

He added that the Russian vessels had now gone, two to Naples and one to the Piræus; but, if Her Majesty's Government, at any time, thought they could be more useful elsewhere, they were ready for orders, and could be moved without delay. The first idea of the Russian Government had been to send all their ships to the Piræus; and this would have been the most convenient for the Marine Department. In view, however, of the excited state of feeling at Athens, the Government thought it would be wiser to send only the one vessel which had been stationed there before, and to direct the others to proceed to Naples.

I said I thought the Imperial Government had acted wisely in not sending all their vessels to the Piræus. The movement might have been misunderstood, and have increased still further the excitement we all desire to allay.

His Excellency then again reverted to the friendly feeling now existing between Russia and Great Britain, and expressed the hope that it might always continue. He did not, however, make any allusion to a closer bond; nor did he hint in any way at a desire for an alliance between the two countries.

I said I was happy also to bear witness to the readiness with which his Excellency had met the proposals which your Lordship had had occasion to make in the interest of the common action of the Powers, and I added that the desire always to maintain friendly relations between the two countries was entirely reciprocated by Her Majesty's Government.

Turning then to the Greek question, M. de Giers said it contained all the elements of danger; but, nevertheless, he hoped that, by the prudent advice of all the Powers, a conflict would still be prevented. He hoped all the Powers would impress on the King of Greece the absolute necessity of prudence; any rash step on His Majesty's part might provoke a conflagration the limits of which no man could foresee. The King should take example by the loyal and patriotic conduct of the Prince of Montenegro, who had, in the whole of the protracted negotiations now crowned by the cession of Dulcigno, never lost patience, but had honourably followed the exact path traced out for him by the European Powers.

With regard to Greece I said I was under the impression that, although Her Majesty's Government continued to inculcate prudence at Athens, and although they had been the last to waive their objections to the mobilization of the Greek army, they hesitated about giving direct advice to the King until they knew what the Powers were prepared to do for Greece in case she abided by their counsels.

His Excellency said that, of course, was the difficulty, and again repeated how important it was to prevent trouble commencing at Athens, a sentiment in which I entirely agreed with M. de Giers.

The long conversation which I have thus resumed for your Lordship's information was more of a friendly than of an official character.

The points which struck me chiefly in it were M. de Giers' frank acknowledgment that the cession of Dulcigno is already an important step gained; his satisfaction that so much had been obtained; and the desire he manifested for the continuation, in some form or other, of the lead of Great Britain in a common action of the European Powers. His Excellency further displayed, in various little phrases casually thrown in during the conversation, and in some personal allusions of a flattering character to myself, his desire of maintaining the most friendly relations with Her Majesty's Government.

M. de Giers was clearly in good spirits, and anxious to please; and, with the charm which none possess more thoroughly than a Russian, when he chooses, his Excellency

received me with a cordiality which proved to me the extent of his desire for a good understanding with the country of which, for the time being, I have the honour to be the Representative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 134.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 588. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 4, 1880.

M. DE GIERS informed me this afternoon that he had just telegraphed to M. de Novikoff to consult with Mr. Goschen and his other colleagues, and to come to an arrangement with them as to the immediate delimitation of the frontiers of the territory of Dulcigno.

His Excellency was good enough to explain that, in the answer which he had given to me on this subject from Livadia, as reported in my despatch No. 569 of the 27th ultimo, he had no desire to press for the immediate delimitation also of the frontier-line beyond the lake. He had only thought it proper to reserve the principle; and had thought it would not have been proper to have assented to our inquiry without, at the same time, affirming that there were other points, besides the Dulcigno frontier, to be settled between Montenegro and Turkey, which would have to be discussed at the proper time.

I said I was pleased to hear that Russia had no desire to press for the immediate delimitation of the line beyond the lake, about which there would, at present, be small chance of an early agreement. Let us first do the part on which we were all of the same mind; afterwards, when the excitement of the late discussions about Dulcigno has cooled down, there would be more chance of our coming to a satisfactory settlement of the other questions concerning the general Montenegrin frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 135.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 592. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 588 of the 4th instant, I regret to state that I heard last night from the Turkish Ambassador, at a dinner at the French Embassy, that the Porte, in reply to the invitation of the Powers that the delimitation of the frontier of Dulcigno shall be at once commenced, intends to refuse, unless the Commissioners are to recommence their labours where they left them off, and thus settle first the line beyond the Lake.

I told Chakir Pasha that I was sincerely grieved to hear what he had told me. It seemed to me this insistance of the Porte to discuss at once a question which did not press so immediately, and on which there was a considerable difference of opinion, would annul the benefits which we had hoped Turkey would derive from her compliance with the will of Europe in the cession of Dulcigno. What had Turkey made the cession for if it was not to conciliate the Powers? If so, why was she at once raising another awkward question before the excitement caused by the first had been allowed a little time to subside?

I then repeated to Chakir Pasha, in earnest language, the same arguments which I had used on previous occasions, and which your Lordship was good enough to approve in your despatches Nos. 506 A and 538 of the 4th and 16th October respectively. I urged his Excellency to do what he could to stop the Sultan in his opposition to the will of Europe, which, however successful in causing momentary delay, would infallibly only hasten the final downfall of Turkey.

This downfall was precisely what England wished to prevent; and it was in the real interest of Turkey herself that Her Majesty's Government desired that the Sultan would frankly accept the state of things laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency replied, "The Treaty of Berlin is all against Turkey; the only clauses in our favour are allowed to remain a dead letter. If what England desires is the maintenance of Turkey, how is it that she proposes measures to which none of the other Governments consent except Russia, who desires the downfall of our power at Constantinople?"

I said his Excellency was wrong in his supposition that all the other Powers did not agree to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government; but, in a question so difficult as this, it was natural that different people, although entirely agreed upon the end, might not view in the same light the efficacy of the means proposed to attain it.

Moreover, with the suspicion she felt of Russia, ought Turkey not to see that the best way of preventing her playing a selfish game is to keep her bound up with other European Powers in whose honesty of purpose the Porte has more reason to have confidence? In trying to break up the European concert, Turkey is freeing the hands of Russia.

Chakir Pasha shrugged his shoulders, and merely said, "You were once our friends."

Just as I am closing this despatch I have received your Lordship's telegram No. 952, in which you are so good as to inform me that Mr. Goschen reported yesterday that the Turkish Foreign Minister foresaw no difficulties about the delimitation.

I still think it, however, right to forward this despatch, as it will be curious for your Lordship to note whether it was the Foreign Minister or the Ambassador who knew most of the secret intentions of their mysterious and irresponsible master.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 136.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

E
(No. 155. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 6, 1880.*

IT having been asserted that the Government of Roumania are chiefly opposing the Austrian scheme of preponderance on the Danube under the instigation of Russia, the Ministers here take every opportunity to contradict this in a most positive manner, and I must say with every appearance of truth on their side.

As far as I can judge, the Russian Cabinet shows but little interest in the Danube beyond their own actual limits, but takes, through its Agents, every advantage it can derive from the general unpopularity of the Austro-Hungarian scheme to lay the foundations of a hostile feeling towards Austria and for the alliance, at some future period, of the three Principalities whose territories touch the Danube, and who, from their extreme sensitiveness as to any invasion of supposed national rights, are sure to be kept in a perpetual state of irritation if their Delegates are left to be controlled by an Austro-Hungarian official.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 137.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13, 2 P.M.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 13, 1880, 11·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 61 of the 4th instant, Russian corvette of 11 guns, and Italian iron-clad of 10 guns, flag-ship of Vice-Admiral, have arrived at the Piræus.

Three French iron-clads and two avisos are also here. There is also a Russian schooner of 2 guns in port.

No. 138.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 753.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 13, 1880.*

IF Mr. Stephen should not already have been made acquainted with the contents of the note from the Porte inclosed in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 571 of the 15th November, respecting the identity of a certain Ahmed who was not long ago acting as Mudir of Dospat, you should furnish him with a copy of that document for any observations he may have to offer thereupon with reference to his despatch to Mr. Goschen of the 5th August, a copy of which was inclosed in his Excellency's despatch No. 274 of the 23rd of that month.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 139.

E *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 14.)*
(No. 372.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 4, 1880.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 314 of the 13th October, I have the honour to report that the present Greek Ministry has addressed a note to the Powers protesting against the sale of public property in Epirus and Thessaly of a date subsequent to the communication of the Award of the Conference of Berlin assigning those provinces to Greece, and declaring such sales would be held null and void.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 140.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 14.)

E. MS.
(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, December 4, 1880.*

ADVERTING to my despatch No. 35 of the 30th ultimo to your Lordship, I have the honour to inclose a definition of that part of the new frontier of Montenegro which lies between the Lake of Scutari and the Adriatic Sea.

This definition avoids the errors contained in those which have been previously given.

Before the demarcation of the frontier is commenced it would seem desirable that each Commissioner should be furnished with an identic and authorized definition of this part of the line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Définition by Captain Sale of New Montenegrin Frontier between Lake and Sea.

LA frontière méridionale de la Principauté de Monténégro partira de la Mer Adriatique à l'embouchure de la Boyana. Elle remontera le thalweg de cette rivière jusqu'au confluent d'un petit cours d'eau qui traverse le Lac Sas, et qui porte dans sa partie supérieure le nom de Rivière Megured.

A partir de ce confluent elle suivra la ligne naturelle la plus directe pour atteindre le point nommé Crveni Kamen sur la carte de M. le Colonel Kaulbars, c'est-à-dire le point le plus à l'est de cette partie du tracé proposé en 1879 par M. le Commissaire de Russie qui se trouve au sud du parallèle 42° latitude.

La frontière suivra ensuite le tracé Russe jusqu'au sommet où se trouve le Point XI (entre Bretovića et Mali Jan) de la carte de M. le Capitaine Sale, à partir de ce point

jusqu'au Point XVIII de la même carte (Goriča Topál) elle se confondra avec la ligne proposée en 1879 par M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne.

(Signé) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 141.

M. Contostavlos to Sir C. Dilke.—(Received December 14.)

E MS. 24, *Wilton Street, Grosvenor Place,*
le 12 Décembre, 1880.

Mon cher Sir Charles,

JE viens de recevoir, par le télégramme, dont copie ci-dessus, l'ordre de mon Gouvernement de repousser autant qu'il est en nous la révision de la décision de Berlin, que d'après des informations arrivées jusqu'à Athènes, la Turquie est en voie de solliciter. Comme j'ai eu déjà l'honneur de vous entretenir sur ce sujet, avant la réception de la dépêche en question, je me permets maintenant de vous envoyer la copie mentionnée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

Inclosure in No. 141.

M. Coumoundouros to M. Contostavlos.

(Télégraphique.)

IL paraît que Turquie agit auprès des Puissances afin d'obtenir nouvel examen question de délimitation. Nous croyons devoir vous déclarer d'avance que Grèce ne saura accepter pareille révision et que Gouvernement Royal reste fermement attaché aux décisions Conférence Berlin.

Veuillez régler votre conduite ce cas échéant et vous exprimer dans ce sens dans vos entretiens officiels.

No. 142.

Mr. Summa to Earl Granville.—(Received December 14.)

Scutari, December 13, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRENK, Chief of Mirdites, and Hodo Pasha have been conducted treacherously by Dervish Pasha to Medua, whence [attending to orders of Sultan (*sic*)] have been sent to Constantinople aboard Turkish frigate.

All quiet here, but removal of Prenk produces bad impression on Roman Catholics and mountaineers.

(Copy has been sent to Embassy at Constantinople.)

No. 143.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 598.) *St. Petersburgh, December 10, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the leading article from to-day's "Agence Russe,"* alluding to several of the questions still awaiting their solution in the Balkan Peninsula.

Your Lordship will observe that the idea is again thrown out of substituting the Island of Crete for Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

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* Not printed.

No. 144.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, December 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Décembre*, 1880.

LA cession de Dulcigno est, à l'heure qu'il est, du domaine des faits. De concert avec notre Commandant-en-chef et par la coopération de notre corps d'armée, les autorités Monténégrines ont pris possession de cette ville.

Le Traité de Berlin a donc reçu, en ce qui concerne la question du Monténégro, une pleine et entière exécution, grâce à l'esprit de conciliation des Hautes Parties Contractantes et à l'empressement loyal qu'a mis la Sublime Porte à remplir les engagements.

Convaincu de l'appréciation bienveillante et équitable des Puissances à son égard par le fait de cette cession, et de leur désir sincère d'écarter tout projet de nature à compromettre le prestige et l'intégrité* de la Sublime Porte dans tous ses actes visant l'exécution des décisions du Congrès de Berlin, le Gouvernement Impérial n'attache pas moins de prix à la solution de la question des frontières Helléniques.

Justement préoccupé du réglement définitif de la rectification de ces frontières, rectification qui, d'ailleurs, ne se traduit, comme on le sait, que par un simple vœu formulé par les Cabinets Signataires dans le Protocole 13 du même Traité, le Gouvernement Ottoman a exposé aux Puissances, dès le 3 Octobre de cette année, et comme une dernière concession, ses vues et ses raisons à ce sujet, en leur indiquant en même temps la cession à la Grèce de territoires vastes et fertiles.

Forte de ses droits, de ses sentiments d'égard pour les décisions du Congrès de Berlin et, par-dessus tout, sa confiance entière en l'équité et en la sollicitude des Cabinets Signataires pour le maintien de la paix en Orient, la Sublime Porte a le ferme espoir que sa bonne volonté sera dûment appréciée par les Puissances et que la haute autorité de leur assentiment s'imposera au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique. Dès lors, celui-ci voudra bien, nous en sommes persuadés, adhérer à ce verdict irrévocable de l'Europe, devant être lui-même soucieux des intérêts bien entendus de deux Etats limitrophes et amis, en dépit même des velléités et des manifestations de plus d'un genre qui se font jour depuis quelque temps sur son territoire au détriment des rapports de bon voisinage et de la tranquillité des populations des deux pays.

En effet, l'effervescence gagne de près les esprits en Grèce. Des préparatifs considérables s'y effectuent en vue, ce n'est plus un mystère pour personne, d'une campagne prochaine au delà des frontières; on a contracté des emprunts et l'on en négocie de nouveaux destinés aux dépenses extraordinaires nécessitées par l'achat d'armes, de munitions de guerre et autres. Tout le pays ne forme qu'un vaste camp et des volontaires y affluent de toutes parts. De leur côté, les organes de la presse Hellénique remplissent journellement leurs colonnes d'articles hostiles à l'Empire en prodiguant toutes sortes d'encouragements pour une lutte injustifiable et meurtrière contre un peuple voisin. En outre, le brigandage qui désole depuis si longtemps les frontières, a pris tout récemment de plus grandes proportions, et des bandes Hellènes beaucoup mieux armées et organisées font souvent irruption sur divers points de notre territoire en exerçant des ravages et des violences inouïs sur nos malheureuses populations inoffensives.

Nous nous bornons à signaler cet état anormal à la sérieuse attention des Puissances, en considérant en même temps comme de notre devoir de déclarer, à notre tour, que la Turquie restera calme devant cet état de choses, tout en s'entourant des précautions voulues; qu'elle ne prendra nullement une attitude provocatrice, mais qu'elle saura au besoin défendre énergiquement ses droits et repousser l'agression si elle a lieu; qu'elle ne désire enfin qu'une chose, celle de voir son voisin revenir à une appréciation plus saine de la situation et contribuer par-là à resserrer l'harmonie et les bonnes relations entre les deux Etats.

Nous aimons à croire que les considérations que je viens d'énoncer rencontreront l'approbation impartiale des Puissances qui, dans leur constante sollicitude pour les intérêts généraux . . . . et pour la cause du droit et de l'humanité, voudront bien, l'espérons-nous, exercer une action efficace sur le Cabinet d'Athènes en vue de le convaincre de la gravité de l'état de choses énoncées plus haut ainsi que des conséquences désastreuses qui pourraient en résulter au préjudice de tous, et de l'engager à renoncer à ses préparatifs belliqueux et à entrer au moment plus tôt en négociation avec la Sublime Porte pour régler la question de la délimitation des frontières Helléniques.

* *Qy.* "initiative."

Je vous prie de donner sans retard lecture et copie de la présente dépêche à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 145.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, December 15, 1880.

I RECEIVED to-day from Porte copy of a long telegram on Greek question dispatched to London yesterday for communication to your Lordship.

No. 146.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E
(No. 667 A.)
Foreign Office, December 15, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked me whether I could give him any information as to the present position of the Greek question.

I said that I had not received information of any new fact in connection with it; that I understood that the French and German Governments had both of them urged moderation and caution unofficially upon the Greek Government; and that I saw in the newspapers to-day an account of language to the same effect held officially by the French Minister at his audience with the King. I asked General Menabrea whether the Italian Government had made any representation, and what view they took of the matter.

General Menabrea said that his Government were as usual desirous for the preservation of peace, and had given advice to the Greek Government with that view. This, however, did not mean that they in any way retreated from their desire to act with Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 147.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 166.)
Foreign Office, December 15, 1880.

Sir,

THE Greek Minister called upon me this afternoon and said that he wished to ask me whether I could confirm or contradict two rumours which had reached his Government: one, that the Porte had proposed to the Powers to draw back from the decision taken at Berlin with regard to the new line of frontier to be assigned to Greece; the other, that the Porte had complained of the military preparations that were being made by the Greek Government.

I said that I had not received any such information, either from the Porte or from any of the Powers.

M. Contostavolos then delivered to me a despatch containing copies of the speech addressed to the King by the French Minister, and of His Majesty's reply.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me, two hours afterwards, the telegram, of which I inclose a copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 148.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 149. Political.)
Salonica, December 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 144 of the 24th ultimo, relative to the proceedings of the military authorities in the district of Kuprulí, I have the honour to

report to your Lordship that those proceedings have produced considerable excitement and irritation among the Bulgarians in that district.

The Reverend Mr. Crosbie, of this town, who recently twice visited Kuprulí during his journey to Uscup, conversed with several well-informed natives, who told him that the Bulgarian insurrectionary Committees intended to hold the Turkish landowners and villagers directly responsible for the late deportation of the "Yenikopeda" (women and children) from the Bulgarian villages.

Threatening letters have already been received by some of the local Beys, warning them that they will be massacred and their estates burnt if the deported women and children are not sent back to their homes; and I have just heard from an authentic source that the Acting Governor-General of Salonica received this morning a cypher telegram from the Kaïmakam of Kuprulí stating that he has received intelligence that no less than eight insurrectionary bands have been formed in the district of Kustendil, in Bulgaria, and were preparing to cross the frontier in the direction of Comanova for the purpose of carring out these threats.

I have telegraphed the substance of above intelligence to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 149.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 150. Political.)
Salonica, December 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, reporting the suggestions which he made to the Civil Governor of Thessaly in the course of a conversation he had with his Excellency on the subject of the suppression of brigandage in that province.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to report that information reached the Acting Governor-General this morning from Catterina, stating that the brigands carried off two Turkish hostages from the vicinity of that town on the 28th ultimo, but subsequently abandoned them, as they were pursued and attacked by a military detachment; two of the brigands were wounded.

Further information by telegraph reached his Excellency, to the effect that a corporal and seven soldiers of the army, while on duty in the vicinity of Milia, a village in Mount Olympus, came across and were surrounded by a band of fifty Greek brigands, who would give no quarter. Five of the unfortunate soldiers, including the corporal, were killed; the remaining three escaped, but were all wounded. Several of the brigands were killed and wounded.

I have seen a recent letter from Catterina stating that, in consequence of the unusual activity and energy displayed by the military and gendarmerie, the brigands infesting that district had united and taken refuge in their fastnesses on the other side of Mount Olympus, in the direction of Allassona, in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, November 24, 1880.

Sir,

AS regards brigandage in Thessaly, I had yesterday a long interview with Khalil Bey, the Civil Governor of the province.

His Excellency thought fit to confer with me on the subject, and I availed myself of the opportunity to congratulate him on the comparative degree of security now enjoyed by the inhabitants of the villages near Volo. I attributed this to the unceasing exertions of the recently-appointed Christian guards, under Nicola Cookosli; and I brought to his Excellency's notice that already through their means five brigands have been captured near Volo; four as implicated in the murder of a Greek merchant at Nehor, and one on

being recognized in the main street of the town as belonging to a band which a short time before robbed passengers on the Zagora road.

Besides, I added, the rescue of two Vlach notables, seized by brigands at a coffee-house ten minutes from Volo, is worth recording, for, on an alarm given by the relatives, two Christian guards went at once in pursuit, and as an attack would have been madness, they resorted to stratagem.

Posting themselves on each side of a ravine where they expected the brigands to pass, one of the guards when at close quarters fired off his rifle, calling aloud, "Now, my lads, are you all ready?" Whereupon the other discharged his piece, and the robbers, fancying themselves surrounded, abandoned the hostages and took to flight.

I however observed that forty-five Christian guards were insufficient to cope with the numerous bands in those localities, and I urged his Excellency that the measure may be extended to all the villages of the Pelion range. I remarked, moreover, that by doing so not only would he benefit the people, but silence a suspicion that the plan was adopted by Government with a view to insuring the collection of the olive tithes sold since then to private speculators.

His Excellency admitted the force of the argument, and, drawing out the requisite orders, transmitted them to the authorities of Volo.

The conversation then turned to the deplorable state of insecurity at present existing in the Olympic regions. His Excellency asked me what I thought of his adopting the same arrangement in those parts. I frankly answered him that, from political reasons, I could not take upon myself to recommend the formation of Christian guards in the pay of the people on so large a scale, as, in the event of war or insurrection, the size of the force may prove an inconvenience to the Government, if not a useful ally to the enemy. I suggested, however, that as winter is setting in, and the mountain heights would soon be covered with deep snow, a company of 150 picked gendarmes, composed of Christians and Albanians, under the able and courageous leadership of Lieutenant Ahmet Agha, would do much towards tranquillizing the northern villages of the province, those of the plain I meant, as well as those in the higher and lower altitudes of the Olympic Mountains.

Upon this, his Excellency pointed out to me that his police force was limited to 600 men, and that for such service he could only detach, at the utmost, some sixty gendarmes from the other duties of the administration. He moreover complained that there were very few Christians willing to enrol themselves in the police corps, to which I replied that this difficulty is not likely to be met with in rural parts, where the people only evince too great a readiness to give a helping hand against the evil of brigandage. I also expressed a conviction that, if empowered to do so, Tako of Rapsani would soon collect some twenty or thirty Christians from Mount Olympus to enter a gendarmerie formed for the pursuit of brigands in those localities. His Excellency considered the object in view as attainable with sixty gendarmes, and a message was sent to Rapsani inviting Tako with thirty Christians to join as comrades for the suppression of brigandage in the north the thirty Albanian zaptiehs under the command of Lieutenant Ahmet Agha.

His Excellency spoke in high terms of the shrewdness, energy, and daring displayed by this officer in the mission, and reminded me how in the Servitza district, a few weeks ago, he rushed single-handed into the midst of fifteen brigands, killed the Chief Metro, wounded several of his companions, and rescued a female hostage!

Before leaving, his Excellency gave me the details of Arif Bey's escape from the brigands. It appears one of the robbers was an ex-servant of Arif Bey, who, on a promise of reward and lucrative employment, saved the whole party with the exception of the Registrar of Title-deeds, who, being taken ill during the flight, was left behind, and thus recaptured by the brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 150.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 370. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 4, 1880.*

I HAD an interview with M. Coumoundouros this morning. His Excellency begged me most earnestly to inquire of your Lordship whether it might not be possible to dispatch the British squadron to the Pireus, now that its further presence at Dulcigno

appeared unnecessary. He added that such a step would produce a marked political effect in Greece, and strengthen the hands of the Government in the present critical situation.

I may add that no British man-of-war has been upon this station since April last.

The Russian squadron will, it is expected, arrive shortly at the Piræus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 151.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 373.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 7, 1880.*

IN consequence of the representations which have been made of late on various occasions by the Ottoman Legation, complaining of the incursions of Greek bands into Turkish territory, the Minister of the Interior has addressed a Circular to the authorities in the districts near the Turkish frontier, in which they are strictly enjoined, in view of "the friendly relations existing between the two countries," to put down at once all local attempts to disturb them or public order in Epirus and Thessaly, and, in case of necessity, they are authorized to call the military forces and Tribunals to their assistance to prevent the formation of such bands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 152.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 374. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 7, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship, in my telegram No. 61 of the 4th instant, that the Russian squadron would be dispatched to the Piræus; its destination has, however, been changed, and it has now proceeded to Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 153.

C. *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)*

(No. 376.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 8, 1880.*

A FEW days ago, on the occasion of the demand by the Government of certain appropriations for the expenses of the army and navy, 44,000,000 drachmas for the former and 6,800,000 drachmas for the latter service, M. Tricoupi (the late Prime Minister) said that unless the money was found the appropriations could not be voted; and he proposed that the Convention which had been concluded with the National Bank should be at once submitted to the Chamber for adoption.

The Ministers, however, having insisted on their proposal, the Appropriation Bills were read a first time.

The discussion then turned on the Convention with the Bank, which was read for the first time.

The next day the Bill for the appropriations was read a second time. In the course of the debate which ensued, M. Tricoupi took the opportunity of an observation of the Minister of Finance, that the Government would state their policy on the occasion of the laying the Budget before the House, to turn the debate in a political direction. He said that, as the Chamber has to vote a very large sum of money, which will be an important item in the Budget, it was right the policy of the Government should be discussed beforehand. The expenses already incurred, 26,000,000 drachmas, are nothing compared to what will have to be spent to complete the work begun. The new Conscription Law of 1878 was to be applied in 1880; therefore the expenses incurred for war material were useful, independently of the mobilization. The Chamber is not bound to follow the policy

of the late Government because it spent 26,000,000 drachmas. If it is of opinion that the mobilization is damaging to the country, it was justified in refusing to vote further sums, or the whole amount of 150,000,000 drachmas, which M. Coumoundouros said would be required. The mobilization should be imposed only by those who considered it necessary.

The Government, therefore, must state their programme and declare clearly what their belief is, and not say they are bound to a course which they do not approve.

As the Government had not stated their view, he (M. Tricoupi) would state his.

The Greek question was abandoned when he came into power in March last. The proposal of the English Government to refer the Frontier question to a Technical Commission was of no consequence. He likened it to the practice of the Greek Chamber, which, when it wanted to get rid of some Bill, referred it to a Committee. M. Delyanni did not do much by getting Turkey excluded, as even Greece, as proposed by France, was also excluded from the Commission suggested by Lord Salisbury.

M. Tricoupi then went with much detail into an exposition of his plan of army organization. He said he had not convoked the Chamber earlier because the Powers whom he consulted were opposed to his doing so. There were papers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which proved this. In the matter of mobilizing the army, the late Government took a course different from that usually pursued by this country towards the Powers; as he thought, in whatever concerns Greek interests, Greece must take the initiative and express her opinion. The Powers were opposed to the mobilization, but he (M. Tricoupi) assured them that mobilization in Greece had not the same meaning as in some other countries, and that, after mobilization had been decreed, it would be long before the army would be in a position to act,—"Mobilization here means the training of untrained men." After this explanation the Powers no longer opposed the measure.

The orator then justified at great length his proceedings in regard to the military preparations. Shortly after the last Session he thought it necessary to prepare, and he sent officers abroad to make purchases of horses and material.

He said his programme of economies was a programme which involved warlike preparations, because countries preparing for war must practise economy in other ways. The abolition of the tithes on crops was intended to alleviate the condition of the farmer, in order that later he might bear the burden of military service. M. Tricoupi has been much blamed since he left office for having contracted a loan in Greece in the first instance with the intention later of contracting a larger loan abroad, it being said that, in view of the credit of the country, it would have been better to first contract a loan abroad and keep the internal resources for later needs. M. Tricoupi attempted to justify his proceedings in this matter by stating that he had desired to show capitalists abroad that Greece could find money in the country, and thus obtain, when further loans were required, better terms abroad. The credit of Greece has fallen in Europe since M. Coumoundouros came into power, because his programme is interpreted as evincing an intention to take possession of the provinces by the Greek forces, and independently of the action of the Powers. This impression, which was contrary to the intention of the Prime Minister, had destroyed the good impression produced in Europe by the King's speech.

M. Tricoupi ended his speech by saying that the Government must state that they approve and will continue the mobilization, not as an obligation imposed on them by the late Government, but as a national necessity required by circumstances—in that case he would vote the appropriations asked for, and not examine details, which every Government must regulate as they deem proper.

In a subsequent sitting of the Chamber, M. Delyanni (Minister for Foreign Affairs under M. Coumoundouros' last Ministry) spoke at great length, his speech extending over two sittings of the House on the political question.

He criticized the financial policy of M. Tricoupi, recapitulating tediously all the old arguments against it.

He then reviewed his own action at the Congress of Berlin, and declared Protocol No. XIII of the Treaty of Berlin is the document which has settled the Greek claims which had been pending since 1821. The persistance of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet was a great obstacle to him, but notwithstanding it the Berlin Protocol was drawn up. That when he represented to the First Representative of Great Britain at the Congress that the preservation of the Ottoman Empire depended on the good relations of Turkey and Greece, and that in the then position of affairs such good relations were impossible, the noble Lord said he "could not kill Turkey," and that his Lordship had only given his consent to Protocol No. XIII in order not to appear opposed to the other Representatives.

M. Waddington gave up Janina to bend the persistency of Lord Beaconsfield. When

the proposal for a Technical Commission was communicated by the British Minister at Athens as to be composed of Representatives of those who took part in the Congress, he at once expressed his objection to Turkey being represented, and both it and Greece were excluded. M. Delyanni went on to say that M. Tricoupi, even after the change of Ministry in England, was doubtful of the line that country would take in the Greek question, and it was only after the Berlin Conference that he came to understand Mr. Gladstone's intentions. If Greece had been ready after the award was communicated to her and to Turkey, she might, if she had been ready, have taken possession of the frontier at once, when the concert of the Powers was complete, and a good opportunity was lost. From what M. Tricoupi had said about the Powers being opposed to the convocation of the Chamber, he, M. Delyanni, inferred that they were opposed to the mobilization, as the latter could only be decreed at the same time that the Chamber was convoked to vote the means for carrying it out. He went on to say that it was not for the interests of Greece that the Ottoman Empire should be dissolved. He had been blamed for not supporting at the Congress the claims of Hellenism, for having limited himself to ask for the annexation of certain provinces only; the blame was unjust. He thought Greece with her present territory was too small to aspire to carry out the great Hellenic "idea" ("la grande idée"). He thought Greece ought to have an increase of territory first, and that this would not prevent her from pursuing her "aspirations" later; he considered this concession as a station, not a terminus. It was necessary to be very careful in carrying out the decision of the Berlin Conference, and how was this to be done without disturbing the internal order of Greece? To keep 60,000 or 80,000 men in arms till all or some of the Powers advise us to proceed to the occupation is a very serious matter, but the problem could not be solved beforehand by any Greek Government or Chamber.

M. Delyanni went on to speak of the Convention with the National Bank, and concluded by saying he would vote in favour of the appropriations asked for but against the Convention, which he considered was opposed to the interests of the country. The Prime Minister spoke next, and, after he had given some preliminary advice to the Chamber to the effect that the present moment required deeds and not words, an observation which, though true, has produced no effect, as the long speeches which have now succeeded each other for many days have wasted the time of the Chamber at a moment when important measures are waiting to be discussed and adopted.* The Greek, however, has an unfortunate facility of speech, and insists upon making use of it, whether usefully or not, on every occasion, and the Chamber at the same time shows an indulgent patience to tedious harangues, which encourages their multiplication; and thus much valuable time is lost, the Session prolonged inordinately and unnecessarily for any useful purpose.

After this advice, then, M. Coumoundouros said that the mobilization was disapproved of by Europe, not because of difficulties it might cause, but because it might create a pretext for Turkey to render vain the attempt of Europe to settle the question. Europe, therefore, prevented the mobilization, not as being a threat, but as being a vain and useless show. M. Tricoupi was advised to postpone the measure until the answer of the Porte had been received. He (M. Tricoupi), however, thought differently, and insisted. He (M. Coumoundouros) reminded him of the letter of M. Contostavlos from London, dated the 24th August last, according to which England, misinterpreting the true sense of M. Tricoupi's request, and thinking that, by such means, he sought to throw the responsibility (of not doing so) on her, answered, "I cease to prevent you" (from mobilizing the army).

He went on to speak of the difficulties the Government found in contracting a loan abroad, and the necessity for borrowing from the Bank. He said, "What can we do without money? Must we stop? Never! Every Greek would say, 'Go on, and for the sake of our honour submit to make sacrifices.'"

He said, "Gentlemen, I have been repeatedly asked, what is our policy? I think we have explained ourselves sufficiently on the subject already: our policy is preparation to execute the decision of Europe. We try to obtain—and I hope we shall not be deprived of—the assistance of Europe: that we shall co-operate with her to the end; but we wish also to retain our independence of will. Do not ask further explanations. What do you wish to hear more from a Minister of a small, poor, feeble nation? I may add, however, that I have no reason to think that the favour of Europe will be withdrawn from us. This is our policy."

M. Coumoundouros closed his speech by saying that, if the Chamber does not support him, it must say so clearly and without loss of time. The Ministry asked for an enthusiastic and not a simple support. If they do not receive it they will withdraw, as office at the present time is a great burden.

* *Sic in orig.*

After some more speeches had been delivered the debate closed last night, and the appropriations asked for by the Government were voted.

No vote of confidence was insisted upon by the Ministry, and as the Opposition were fully aware of their inability to obtain a majority against their adversaries, they abstained from provoking a vote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, M. Coumoundouros has sent to my colleagues and to me a memorandum containing a correct translation of the words he used as to the policy of the Government, copy of which I have the honour now to inclose. This memorandum was sent to us, as an incorrect report of what the Prime Minister said had appeared in some newspapers.

E. C.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Correct Translation of Words used by M. Coumoundouros in the Greek Chamber.

Messieurs,—On continue de me demander, qu'elle est notre politique? Je crois avoir donné déjà sur cette question des explications suffisantes. Notre politique c'est de nous préparer pour l'exécution des décisions des Puissances. Nous tâchons et nous espérons aussi de ne pas manquer dans notre œuvre, du concours de l'Europe, et d'agir jusqu'à la fin, de concert avec elle; mais nous voulons aussi nous réserver en tout cas notre liberté d'action.

No. 154.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, December 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish Government steam-transport "Assyr," laden with munitions of war left at Trebinje by the Turks when Herzegovina was occupied by Austrian troops, is to leave this port for Constantinople in a few days.

In handing over a few guns, a considerable number of old muskets, and about 30,000 cartridges, the Austrian Government stipulated that these should not be landed either on the Albanian coast or at Salonica, and, in order that the conditions may be fulfilled, have deputed an Austrian naval officer to accompany the vessel to her destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 155.

E *Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)*

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, December 10, 1880.*

I AM informed by some of the foreign Chargés d'Affaires for Montenegro that the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs has been protesting against the Turks for reoccupying and holding the villages of Kaliman and Leskovče.

Moreover, the Montenegrins decline to give to the Turks the stipulated receipt for the ceded districts, on the ground that the Turks continue to hold these two villages.

But, according to the Convention of the 25th ultimo, the Turks were only bound to hand over the town and district of Dulcigno, and on this having been done, the Montenegrins were bound to give them a receipt or written acknowledgment of having taken possession.

The two villages of Kaliman and Leskovče are not in the Dulcigno district. This

fact is well known to the Montenegrins, who were therefore not justified in withholding the receipt on the ground that the Turks kept possession of these places.

There is yet another point in dispute, viz., the position of San Giorgio, near the Boyana; but, as regards the possession of this place, the two parties have agreed to leave matters *in statu quo* pending an ultimate decision as to the exact frontier-line.

I venture to point out to your Lordship that, when at Dulcigno on the 28th ultimo, the Montenegrin General, Bojo Petrovich, informed us that he was bound entirely by the Convention of the 25th November, 1880, and that he had nothing to do with the Commission or with the new frontier-line; but, now that the Montenegrins find that they have made a mistake as regards the Convention, they are withholding the receipt they are bound to give to the Turkish authorities, and are apparently endeavouring to make use of the Commission as a means of getting handed over to them territory which, as far as I know, the Turks have never agreed to give up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 156.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 93. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, December 15, 1880.*

ON the 5th instant Russian Consul-General categorically demanded of Governor-General immediate signature of contracts for the forty Russian officers now serving in militia, threatening, in the event of a refusal, to advise them to resign and to hold his Excellency responsible for consequences. Aleko Pasha, in reply, referred to Article 12, Chapter 12, of Annex of Organic Statute, which stipulates that number of foreign officers should not exceed one-fifth of total effective of officers, insisting that this provision should no longer be infringed.

Russian Consul-General has now given way, promising to do his best to carry out his Excellency's wishes.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 157.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 633.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 569 of the 29th ultimo respecting Baron Jomini's views as to the necessity of proceeding with the demarcation of the new Montenegrin boundary, and I approve the language in which you conveyed to his Excellency the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the question should be confined for the present to the settlement of the line between the Lake of Scutari and the sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 158.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

E
(No. 360. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 3, 1880.*

I HAVE already had the honour to report in previous despatches conversations I have had with leading Bulgarians relative to the Unionist movement, and the condition of this province.

It will, perhaps, be convenient if I now briefly summarize the general views, not only of the Bulgarians, but likewise of the Turks and Greeks, as expressed to me in my frequent intercourse with these three sections of the population of Eastern

Roumelia since my arrival here, and submit the advice I have thought it my duty to give to each.

As I have already had the honour to announce to your Lordship, there have of late been distinct signs that the idea of union at any price is giving way to a more healthy conception on the part of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia of their national interests. The language of the press has become more moderate, and previously popular opinions are now much less confidently advanced. There appears, in fact, to be no longer the same arrogance in their views, and the moderation and reserve noticeable in the arguments of the Bulgarians in office would seem to indicate that they, at least, are beginning to understand that government is a far more serious and difficult matter than they at first imagined it to be.

I believe, if appealed to, the great mass of the Bulgarians would still declare in favour of union with the Principality. The events of the last few years are too recent, and the counsel instilled into their minds too fresh, to admit of the popular desire for union quickly subsiding. Nevertheless, there are strong indications that the revolutionary spirit which sustained the Secret Societies is rapidly losing its force, and that the Roumelian Bulgarians are beginning to appreciate the rights and liberties which they already possess, and are unwilling to expose their property and homes to possible devastation, being seemingly convinced that the union must some day take place in the natural course of events. It would, moreover, appear that there is a strong desire here that Eastern Roumelia—not Bulgaria—should be the centre of Bulgarian national growth. The peasantry are settling down to work. They are tired of the agitation to which they have been exposed during the last few years, and if left alone, would probably soon forget past events, and live in peace with their Turkish and Greek neighbours. The weekly drillings have no longer any charm for them; what they desire is rest. The Roumelian Bulgarians have slow brains; they do not readily adopt new ideas, but once an idea is fixed in their minds, they adhere to it tenaciously. Gratitude, and the circumstances which called them into autonomous existence, at first impressed them with the belief that Russia was their only friend, and that it was to her that they had to look for protection and good advice. The force of this idea is now waning. The insurrectionary doctrines so diligently preached by agitators have not merely intensified the aversion of the Bulgarians to the supremacy of the Porte, but have animated in their minds a growing sense of independence, and an obstinate repugnance to all arrogant restraint. The conduct of the Russian officers serving in the militia and gendarmerie has gone far to weaken Russian influence in Eastern Roumelia. Their intolerance has conveyed the worst impressions with regard to Russian military rule. The civil authorities have been frequently grossly insulted by these officers, many of whom have openly expressed their contempt for the Local Government, and declared that the Czar and the Russian Consul-General were the only authorities they recognized. These incidents have tended to render the presence of Russians unpopular, and to produce in the minds of the Bulgarians a certain distrust towards Russia which did not previously exist. When acts of military arrogance have occurred, I have myself heard Bulgarians indignantly exclaim that the Russian officers should remember that they were not in Russia, but in Eastern Roumelia, where there were free institutions, and where civil rights were respected. The effect of all this has been to incline many Bulgarians to believe that, after all, their true interests are more likely to be promoted by following the advice of the Western Powers, rather than solely that of one so directly interested in the peninsula as Russia. If destined to be absorbed by some Great Power, the Roumanian Bulgarians would probably prefer to be incorporated in Russia; but from the opinions I have heard generally expressed, it would undoubtedly appear that they are anxiously looking forward to an independent political existence.

Your Lordship is aware of the disturbing influences which have been at work in the province, and of the use made of the organization of the Secret Societies for the spread of disaffection. There would appear to be little doubt that the excessive animosity existing between the various races helped to keep the agitation alive. There is even good proof that agitators have purposely encouraged ill-feeling, and have even instigated vindictive acts with a view of increasing it. Believing, therefore, that so long as the relations between the different nationalities remained thus embittered, agitation and intrigue would thrive, I have thought it right to direct my efforts to conciliating, as far as lay in my power, the various discordant elements. In conversation with Bulgarians of all classes, I have urged the importance of mutual confidence and harmony prevailing between the different races, pointing out that in granting the province autonomy Europe had had in view the welfare of the populations generally, without distinction of race.

I have laid before them the necessity in their own interests of encouraging and reassuring the Turkish and Greek populations, that the energies of all might contribute to the development and prosperity of the province. I have pointed out to them, besides, the dangers to which they would inevitably be exposed if they listened to evil counsels and engaged in a struggle against the existing order of things, laying particular stress on the injury caused to the agricultural and commercial interests of Eastern Roumelia by the general alarm and sense of uncertainty which prevailed.

While sympathizing in the efforts which the Bulgarians were making at self-government, Her Majesty's Government, I have said, strongly condemned any policy entailing the oppression of the minorities. That if they wished to secure the respect and good-will of Europe they must exercise more generosity and put a stop to acts of injustice, a continuance of which would certainly alienate from them the sympathies of their friends.

In referring to Kirdjali, Aïdos, and to past cases of injustice and violence, I have not hesitated to use plain terms. On the other hand I have always been ready to express satisfaction and give encouragement when I have observed, on the part of the Bulgarians, a sincere intention of carrying out honestly and impartially the provisions of the Organic Statute, and have invariably impressed upon them that the advice I tendered was meant in no unfriendly spirit, but with a view to their own welfare.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship that a decided improvement has lately taken place in the condition of the Turkish population. Many Moslems, it is true, are selling their lands and emigrating, but I believe the majority are now more contented.

The alarm which was spread among them this summer by the rumours circulating in the Turkish press is subsiding. If the Government afford them due protection, and justice be dealt out to them in the Courts, they will gradually, I think, settle down peacefully in their homes, and become reconciled to their lot. I have thought it important, whenever an opportunity occurred, to explain to the Turks the rights they have acquired under the Statute, and to press upon them the importance in their interests of studying the new system of Government, pointing out that it had been the intention of Europe that the free institutions granted should be enjoyed by all alike. I have urged them not to be disheartened at the delay which frequently occurred in the settlement of their claims and complaints, but to patiently persevere in the prosecution of their just demands. As regards the past, they should not forget that all in the province had passed through a period of great suffering. On all sides passions had been roused, and not only the Turks, but almost all the Bulgarians, and many of the Greeks, had tales of sorrow to tell. A very large portion of the land was theirs. By emigrating their condition would probably be far worse, certainly not be improved. I have, moreover, strongly advised the Turkish Notables to direct their attention and any spare funds at their disposal to establishing more schools, that their co-religionists, by better education, may be more capable of enjoying the constitutional liberties that have been granted to them.

The Greeks are still loud in their expressions of the injustice which they have suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians. I believe, however, that, if they were willing to forget the past, and showed a more conciliatory disposition, they would in time acquire the position in the Administration which, as an intelligent section of the population, they are entitled to. I have continually urged the Bulgarians to be more generous towards them, representing that, by monopolizing the posts in the Administration, and thus entirely neglecting more lucrative occupations, they were pursuing a short-sighted policy. The result would be that, as the province prospered, the entire trade would fall into the hands of the Greeks or of foreigners, and that they would remain a comparatively poor people. When the Greeks have complained to me I have recommended patience and conciliation, telling them that there were already distinct signs that the Bulgarian majority in the Assembly was splitting up into two parties, and that, should this happen, the votes of the small Greek minority would be much courted, and Greek interests more fully protected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 159.

E *Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)*

(No. 370.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 3, 1880.*

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my despatch No. 362 of the 5th November, in which I referred to the sentences passed on the Bulgarians who were handed over to justice by the Kirdjaly Commission, I have learnt that Judgment has now been given in the seven cases which remained over for trial; two years' imprisonment being the severest sentence awarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 160.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 644.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship, in my telegram No. 351 of the 8th ultimo, that Réouf Pasha was about to return as Governor-General to Adrianople, and that Ali Pasha, whom he would relieve, had been appointed High Commissioner in the Vilayet of Salonica. This latter appointment was made with a view to the reorganization of the gendarmerie, and to the suppression of brigandage in that district. The recent despatches from Her Majesty's Consular officers in Macedonia, as your Lordship is aware, give a deplorable account of the extent to which brigandage is on the increase.

In a Report dated the 22nd ultimo, Mr. Blunt alludes again to the petition referred to in his despatch to your Lordship No. 131 of the 9th November, as having been telegraphed to the Palace by the local Beys and Christian Notables, in which they complain of the state of insecurity in Macedonia, and urge the appointment of a Special Commission for the suppression of brigandage.

On the receipt of this despatch, I made inquiry at the Porte whether Ali Pasha had yet proceeded to his post.

I have been informed, in reply, that the Sultan has not been willing to confirm Ali Pasha in this appointment, who is still waiting in Constantinople in the hope of obtaining the issue of the Imperial Iradé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 161.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 647.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Widdin, reporting the dispatch of a number of torpedoes to Widdin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Luscelles.

Sir, *Constantinople, December 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that one of my colleagues informed me on Wednesday morning that the Bulgarian steamer "Goluptchik," which left Rustchuk during the night about a week previously, conveyed a number of torpedoes to Widdin.

The torpedoes were manufactured in the Rustchuk arsenal, and loaded with dynamite at the fort of Levan-Tabia, which I had previously reported as containing a large quantity of that explosive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 162.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 648.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Wilson, reporting that the Redif battalions of Balikisri and Edramid have been called out for service at the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Smyrna, November 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on passing through Balikisri, I found that the two Redif battalions of that place were being called out for service at the Dardanelles, and that on my arrival at Edramid I visited the camp of a Redif battalion which was daily expecting orders to march for the same place.

The peasants are much discontented with the call to arms, which they believe is connected with the settlement of the Greek question. This has led to a feeling of irritation against the Greek villagers, with whom they usually live on friendly terms. There have been a few cases in which Greeks have been beaten and ill-treated by recruits, who have met them on the road whilst proceeding to the depôt, but the assaults have not hitherto been of a serious nature. I am afraid, however, that should war break out between Greece and Turkey, the position of the Greek peasantry in the coast districts of Anatolia will be an extremely unpleasant one, and that the feeling of irritation, alluded to above, may lead, as it did under similar circumstances in 1821, to serious disturbances.

I may add that I was received everywhere with much courtesy, and noticed no trace of any hostile feeling towards England amongst the Moslem peasantry or the Turkish officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 163.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)*

(No. 650.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the *pro-memoriâ* which was communicated yesterday to the Porte by the First Dragoman of the German Embassy, on behalf of the Representatives of the Six Powers, with regard to the delimitation of the frontier of Montenegro between the Lake of Scutari and the sea.

I saw the Foreign Minister myself in the course of the day, and he expressed to me his personal view that the delimitation might take place at once, but the question must of course be referred to his colleagues. His Excellency assured me that the agitation which had been caused by the cession was rapidly calming down and the country quiet.

On this, as on a previous occasion, the conversation turned to the question of the frontier to the east of the lake and the points which are still unsettled between the Powers and the Porte as regards the *status quo* line on the one hand and the line proposed by the Powers on the other.

I was much struck on the former occasion by the comparatively slight importance which his Excellency appeared to attach to the small piece of territory still in dispute. His tone was entirely different from that previously adopted when the maintenance of the *status quo* was to be the condition on which Dulcigno was to be surrendered. Now the wish was expressed that the matter should be put off, but there was no declaration as to the impossibility of this line of land being ceded. In fact, the Minister gave me to understand that the great resistance made on this particular point was due to the wish to prevent the Albanians of the district and their friends making common cause with the opponents of the cession of Dulcigno.

Yesterday, however, Assim Pasha was somewhat more guarded. He dwelt, as before, on the necessity of the subject being allowed to sleep for the present, with a view to preventing the renewal of any agitation, and of permitting matters to settle down, but he gave me the impression of wishing to conceal what course the Porte would subsequently adopt.

On my part, both on this and on the former occasion, I abstained from giving any indication of my views, as I am not aware what course either Her Majesty's Government or the other Powers may ultimately wish to see pursued with regard to the final settlement. It may certainly be wise to defer any steps for the present, so as to give the Porte time to consolidate its authority over the Albanians after its recent collision with them.

His Excellency repeated the statement to me that in the fighting which had occurred there had been nine killed and sixteen wounded of the regular forces, and about thirty killed and wounded of the Albanians. He seemed at much pains to explain to me that this was a large number in proportion to the forces engaged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have had the honour of seeing the Sultan. His Majesty informed me that he did not anticipate any difficulty whatever as to the delimitation of the ceded district. Practically, the choice had been taken by this Government to proceed with it at once.

G. J. G.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Pro-memoriâ.

LES Représentants des Puissances expriment à la Sublime Porte le désir qu'il soit procédé sans délai à la délimitation de la frontière Monténégrine entre la Mer Adriatique et le Lac Scutari, et qu'à cet effet Dervish Pasha soit invité à garantir la sécurité des Commissaires qui auront à exécuter les travaux relatifs à la délimitation susdite.

La Sublime Porte aura à cet effet à désigner son Commissaire pour se joindre à ceux des Puissances et du Monténégro, qui s'est déjà déclaré prêt à participer à ces travaux.

No. 164.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, December 17.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 9 Décembre*, 1880.

NOTRE Ministre à Belgrade nous écrit que dans une récente entrevue avec le nouveau Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en Sérbie, son Excellence lui a déclaré, à propos de la Loi Agraire, que les décisions du Gouvernement Princier dépendaient uniquement de l'accueil réservé par les Puissances à la protestation du Gouvernement Impérial. M. Mjatovitch n'a pas caché à Server Effendi qu'il avait chargé les Représentants Serbes à l'étranger de sonder l'opinion des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Dans cet état de choses il est de la plus haute importance que vous usiez de toute votre influence pour amener le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à se prononcer d'une manière catégorique en faveur de nos justes réclamations. Je compte sur vos efforts pour obtenir ce résultat.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 165.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, December 17.)

E
(Confidentielle.)
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Décembre*, 1880.

VOUS avez dû sans doute prendre connaissance de ma dépêche Circulaire d'hier, concernant la question Hellénique.

Nous nous flattons de l'espoir que M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères voudra bien relever de la lecture de ce document tout l'esprit de conciliation et des sentiments modérés de la Sublime Porte en face de la situation insolite et anormale qui se présente en Grèce. L'amitié entre les deux États, le Gouvernement Impérial ne demande pas mieux, pour sa part, que de la fortifier de plus en plus et d'en donner même des preuves palpables par un désintéressement sans exemple et par des sacrifices de territoires qu'il est résolu à faire au préjudice de ses droits et à l'encontre même du désir des populations limitrophes de ne point se voir arracher à une domination légitime et séculaire.

Mais, avant tout, la Sublime Porte compte sur les sentiments bienveillants, intègres, et modérés des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et espère qu'elles tiendront la main à ce que les concessions auxquelles la Turquie se résigne dans les circonstances actuelles par égard pour le vœu Européen mentionné dans le Protocole 13 du dit Traité, et par le même intérêt qu'elle porte au maintien de la paix, ne dépassent en aucun cas les limites du juste et du possible.

Ces limites se justifient d'ailleurs, d'un côté, par l'absence de tout sacrifice, de tout motif légitime que [?] invoquer [?] qui veu [?] à tout prix, et l'autre, par une abnégation sans précédent et un démembrement considérable de territoires que l'impose le véritable propriétaire dans le but unique de satisfaire à une proposition de délimitation du Congrès de Berlin, laquelle ne consiste, comme je viens de le dire, qu'en un simple vœu ne pouvant, par conséquent, avoir aucun caractère obligatoire.

Que si l'on objecte, par exemple, que la Grèce mérite une pareille cession de territoire par son attitude neutre pendant la dernière guerre, je me crois en mesure de faire remarquer ici, sans courir le risque d'être taxé d'erreur, que ce furent précisément la présence de nos forces navales dans les parages du royaume et notre démonstration armée imposante sur les frontières de l'Épire et de la Thessalie qui nécessitèrent à cette époque cette attitude de la part du Gouvernement Grec, et que même alors le sacrifice et le désavantage furent entièrement pour nous, attendu que, par déférence aux conseils de quelques Puissances, le Gouvernement Ottoman avait interdit à nos forces armées tout mouvement en avant, et que, dès lors, un corps d'armée composé de plus de 40,000 hommes se trouvait être immobilisé le long des frontières Helléniques, lequel corps aurait certes pu agir d'une manière efficace, si non du côté de la Grèce, qui ne manqua pas de nous prodiguer à la même époque des provocations et des actes hostiles isolées, du moins sur le théâtre lui-même des luttes gigantesques d'alors, luttes où sa coopération aurait été si précieuse pour nos vaillantes armées.

Ces provocations nous les voyons se reproduire aujourd'hui d'une manière beaucoup plus accentuée, traduites qu'elles le sont par des préparatifs militaires considérables, par des incursions armées de bandes Hellènes sur notre territoire, par des déclarations officielles peu équivoques, et enfin par les attaques violentes de la presse Hellénique, et alors surtout que la Sublime Porte reste et veut rester calme et impassible devant une telle situation et arriver même à concilier les choses par d'importantes cessions matérielles à ses propres dépens.

Nous ne faisons donc point un vain appel aux Puissances, basé qu'il est uniquement sur la cause sacrée du droit international et de l'humanité, aussi bien que sur leurs sentiments de justice et de haute bienveillance dont elles nous ont donné maintes preuves. Parmi tant d'exemples d'équité de leur part ne pourrions-nous pas invoquer ici un fait dont la Sublime Porte se souvient avec reconnaissance, et qui consiste en le blâme unanime que ces Puissances infligèrent au Gouvernement Hellénique alors que, pendant les Conférences de Constantinople, ce dernier venait de proposer une ligne de démarcation telle qu'elle a rencontré, comme de raison, leur désapprobation formelle?

Vous voudrez bien, en vous inspirant des considérations qui précèdent, ne laisser échapper aucune occasion pour vous énoncer dans le même sens auprès du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et lui donnant encore tous les développements

que la question comporterait et que votre tact et votre patriotisme vous auront suggérés.

Vous pouvez donner lecture de cette dépêche explicative à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et lui en laisser en même temps copie, à titre confidentiel et privé, si son Excellence le désire.

No. 166.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17, 11 A.M.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 17, 1880, 8 A.M.*

TURKISH Circular of the 14th instant, calling attention of Powers to warlike preparations in Greece, has been communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs, and instructions have been sent to Italian Ambassadors to communicate with the Courts to which they are accredited thereupon.

No. 167.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 634.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 17, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language held by Mr. Plunkett, as reported in his despatches Nos. 566 and 568 of the 26th and 27th ultimo, relative to the ultimate movements of the combined fleets after the cession of Dulcigno, and the manner in which he explained the discrepancy between the actual proposal of Her Majesty's Government and the view taken of it by that of Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 168.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 869.)
Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 18, 1880.*

CAPTAIN SALE has sent home a definition of the new frontier of Montenegro between Lake of Scutari and the sea. I repeat to you his telegram No. 55, which contains English version. Full text will be sent by post. He suggests that before the delimitation of the frontier takes place, each Commissioner should be furnished with an identic and authoritative definition of the line to be marked out.

Point out confidentially to Baron Haymerle that hitherto the Porte has gone no further than to promise the cession of Dulcigno district, whereas the line proposed by the Powers and accepted by Montenegro includes the cession of a further triangle containing Kalimun and Leskovce.

Ask him how he thinks it will be best to deal with this point.

No. 169.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18, 5:50 P.M.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 18, 1880, 4 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs desires me to ask whether Her Majesty's Government will agree in principle that the mediation of the six Powers on the Greek frontier question shall be converted into an arbitration, by the decision of which both Turkey and Greece shall engage beforehand to be bound.

If the Powers agree to this, he thinks that first step should be to endeavour to obtain consent of the Porte.

He has spoken on the subject to the Turkish Ambassador here and to Musurus Pasha to-day, but he wishes the fact of his having made the proposal to be kept as secret as possible for the present.

No. 170.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 803.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 18, 1880.*

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a despatch from Captain Sale,* in which the definition is given, referred to in my telegram of to-day (No. 869), of the new frontier of Montenegro between the Lake of Scutari and the sea.

I transmit also copy of a despatch from him† in which is inclosed the text of the Convention between the Porte and Montenegro for the cession of the town and district of Dulcigno.

In addition to these papers, I send a copy of Captain Sale's outline map of the 23rd August, on which is marked in ink the triangular district containing the villages of Leskovce and Kaliman, which appears to be now claimed by both Turkey and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 171.

E *Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.*

(No. 804. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 18, 1880.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch inclosing papers respecting the new frontier of Montenegro, I have to call your Excellency's attention to the suggestion made by Captain Sale that, before the Commissioners begin the work of the delimitation of that frontier, they should be furnished with an identic and authoritative definition of the line which the boundary is to follow.

The Porte, in the note addressed to the Ambassadors on the 11th October, declared its readiness to cede Dulcigno, but did not specify what territory would be comprised in the cession. In the Convention concluded between the Porte and Montenegro on the 25th ultimo, the town and district of Dulcigno are spoken of as being ceded, and Captain Sale, in his telegram of the 10th instant (No. 57), said that a formal acknowledgment of possession of the district of Dulcigno had been given to the Turkish Governor-General. The Porte has not, so far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, undertaken to cede to Montenegro territory beyond the boundary of the district.

But it is not the district of Dulcigno only which has to be defined by the European Commissioners. It is proposed that they should trace the frontier between the sea and the Lake of Scutari. The line adopted by the Powers under what is known as the Dulcigno arrangement is that which was proposed to the Prince of Montenegro in the note inclosed in Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 146 of the 13th June last, of which His Highness notified his acceptance in the note to Mr. Green of the 14th of the same month, inclosed in his No. 151 of the 15th. This line, after embracing the Dulcigno district, follows the tracing of the April arrangement to the Lake of Scutari, with the exception that, after its first contact with that line on the Megured River, it recedes from it, and gives to Montenegro a triangular district including the villages of Leskovce and Kaliman, rejoining it to the east of the latter village.

I have to request your Excellency to point this out confidentially to Baron Haymerle, and ascertain his views as to the manner in which it will be advisable to deal with this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 172.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

E. MS.
(No. 1167. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 18, 1880.*

M. BARTHELEMY ST. HILAIRE called upon me this afternoon, and told me that he had come to ask me to lay before Her Majesty's Government a plan for dealing

* No. 140. † No. 46.

with the Greek frontier question, which he had formed after much anxious reflection on the dangers to which the peace of the East and of Europe was exposed by the present state of that question.

His plan was that, instead of simply mediating between Turkey and Greece, the Six Powers should settle the question definitively by acting as arbitrators. It was, of course, essential to the execution of this plan that both parties should engage beforehand to submit unreservedly to the decision of the arbitrators, whatever it might be.

The greater difficulty would, no doubt, be with Turkey, and if the plan was adopted, the first endeavour of the Powers should, he thought, be to secure the adherence of the Porte.

With Greece the task might be easier. That country was absolutely ruining itself by military preparations, and, as matters stood, it could hardly avoid incurring the tremendous risk of attacking Turkey in the spring. A submission to the arbitration of the Powers would open to it an honourable way out of the financial and military perils in which it was involved.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire went on to say that he was not without hope that his plan would be agreed to by Germany and Austria, and even by Italy. He could not as yet form an opinion as to how it would be received by Russia.

For his own part he should, perhaps, prefer that the lead in the matter should be taken by some other Power rather than by France, but he would not shrink from taking the initiative himself if the other Powers desired that he should do so.

Essad Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador here, had, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me, called upon him to-day, and had brought with him Musurus Pasha, who was passing through Paris on his way back to London. He had spoken to them of his plan of arbitration, and had had some discussion with them on the subject. The impression left on his mind had been, that the Porte would not be indisposed to agree beforehand to accept the decision of the arbitrators, but for the incurable distrust of the Christian Powers which existed among the Turks.

I should observe that throughout the conversation with me M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire seemed to take it for granted that the arbitrators would award a considerably smaller accession of territory to Greece than had been assigned to her by the Berlin Conference.

Finally, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire desired me to ask Her Majesty's Government, confidentially, in his name, whether they were ready to agree in principle that the mediation of the Six Powers should be converted into an arbitration, by the decisions of which, whatever they might be, Turkey and Greece should engage beforehand to be bound.

He expressed a wish that the fact of his having made this proposal should be kept as secret as possible for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 173.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 385.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 19, 1880, 10·15 A.M.*

PORTE informs me that Ottoman Commissioner for delimitation of frontier between Adriatic and Scutari Lake has been instructed to join those of Powers and Montenegro, Dervish Pasha having received instructions to take the needful measures for protecting Commission during its labours.

No. 174.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 799.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 14, 1880.*

M. D'OUBRIL, the Russian Ambassador, has left Vienna for St. Petersburgh on a short leave of absence, which he told me he had asked for entirely on private grounds, although he was glad that it would give him the opportunity of explaining personally to

his Government what he considered to be the position of Austria respecting the affairs of Turkey.

He should, he said, especially have to point out that there was not a prospect of obtaining the concurrence of the Austro-Hungarian Government in any measure of coercion upon Turkey for enforcing compliance with the decision of the Conference of Berlin upon the Greek frontier, it being essential that this should be borne in mind in dealing with the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 175.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

E
(No. 800. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 16, 1880.*

WHEN I saw Baron Haymerle to-day he said that he had just received the note of the Porte upon the Greek frontier question.

He had not yet been able to read it attentively, but his first impression was that, if it did not open the way to an arrangement, it at all events did not close the door upon one.

Musurus Pasha, who left Vienna yesterday on his way to London, had, Baron Haymerle said, proposed to him that the Powers should make some fresh suggestion of a frontier; but he had answered that it was not for them to do so, and that it was for the Porte to say what it was prepared to do, avoiding at the same time any declaration of what it was resolved not to grant.

His Excellency further mentioned to me that Count Hatzfeldt, who has just passed through Vienna, had expressed to him a very decided opinion that the Turkish Government would not be brought to the acceptance of the Conference frontier.

Our conversation was hurried, and finally interrupted, but he appeared to me to be decidedly favourable to the resumption by the Powers of the office of mediators between Greece and Turkey, and to think that an arbitration, requiring a previous engagement by the two parties to abide by the award, would be attended by much difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 176.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, December 13, 1880.*

IN case it should not be found desirable to reassemble the Montenegrin Boundary Commission immediately, I have prepared, for the information of the parties interested, a map and specification of the new frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the sea, in which a detailed description of every point on the line is given, together with all the technical information necessary for finding the several points on the ground itself.

This line follows the trace which the memorandum unofficially communicated to the Porte on the 5th August, 1880, purported to describe. It assumes that the said trace has been accepted by Turkey.

With the exception of the Boyana River and the portion near Lake Sas which lies between the Boyana and the point known as Crveni Kamen on the Russian map, the trace follows lines which the Russian Commissioner and myself were deputed by the rest of the Commission to demarcate in 1879.

If, therefore, the description of the new frontier between the lake and the sea be vouched for as correct by the signatures of the Russian Commissioner and myself, it would be to all intents and purposes as binding as if it were attested by the whole Commission, for the rest of the Commission could only endorse our signatures as regards the lines which we ourselves demarcated.

As regards the only portion of the line concerning which any discussion could arise, namely, that part which lies between the Boyana River and Crveni Kamen, if a proviso were added to the text already given to the effect that if the Montenegrins and Turks

could not by a specified date come to an understanding as to the exact position of the "ligne naturelle la plus directe," the said line should be traced straight between the two terminal points, viz., the confluence of the watercourse with the Boyana and the point Crveni Kamen of the Russian trace, there would be no chance of the question remaining open.

I am induced to propose this arrangement to your Lordship as a means of meeting the wishes of the Montenegrin Government, in so far as that they desire to have their new frontier precisely defined.

If the Turks and Montenegrins agree to this definition of their frontier, the data given to them will be so precise that they will be just as well able to put up the actual boundary marks as the Commission itself; if, on the other hand, they do not agree to the definition now proposed, there is no reason to suppose that it would carry any more weight with them if endorsed by the whole Commission, for all our previous experience has indicated that both parties alike only seek to make use of the Commission when they imagine that its decision will be favourable, and refuse to accept its decision when given against them.

By the time this despatch reaches London I will have three copies of the detailed specification with maps prepared, so that, if I have your Lordship's approval, I could at once hand one copy to the Montenegrins at Cettinjé, one copy to the Turkish authorities at Scutari, and guard one copy with the Commission for future reference and for verification of the line whenever desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 177.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, December 15, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here of General Soutzos to inspect the troops, &c.

I have further the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Onofrio, British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, which your Lordship may find interesting, as it relates chiefly to the Turco-Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Santa Maura, December 12, 1880.*

GENERAL SCARLATO SOUTZOS leaves for Corfu to-day, for the purpose of inspecting the troops stationed in this island.

The General, whom I have had occasion to see, shares the feelings prevailing in Greece at the present moment, and thinks "that Greece, having mobilized the army with the advice (*sic*) of the Signatory Powers, cannot without sacrificing her honour abroad, and incurring great difficulties at home, recede from the attitude she had assumed, so long as the decision of the Berlin Conference is not carried out." He says that he does not anticipate any serious resistance on the part of the Albanians, in Epirus, and thinks that the Albanian agitation will not survive the intrigues set on foot by the Porte, with the view to counteracting the claims of Greece.

I understand, however, that the General, in an interview with an influential Albanian notability, who was here on Monday last, *en route* for Piræus and Constantinople, said it was highly desirable that an amicable understanding should be come to between Greece and the Albanians.

The Albanian, while admitting that such an understanding was indeed highly desirable, in the interest of both races, maintained that the present attitude of Greece was surely more calculated to alienate his countrymen from Greece than to promote friendly feelings in Albania.

I fear that in certain Greek quarters the national idea of the Albanians, and their

power of resistance, are somewhat underrated. As at present informed, I am in a position to state that the Southern Albanians of Margariti, Paramythia, Delvino, and Argirokastro are more than ever determined, whether aided by the Porte or not, to resist the Greeks by force of arms. The Turkish authorities, on the other hand, leave nothing undone to foster this determination; but, as to the co-operation of the northern clans, however the southern Committees may have hitherto acted in complete accord with the "League," it is still impossible to gauge the extent of the support the southerners might reckon upon in their struggle with Greece. It is, however, a significant fact, that the southerners have never attached any great importance to the resistance of the Dulcignotes. They rather discountenanced it, apprehending, no doubt, that complications arising out of the Dulcigno affair might have endangered greater national interests in Epirus.

What the issue of a struggle between Greece and Albania may be I cannot pretend to predict. But I may, perhaps, repeat here what I said in my preceding correspondence, that a struggle between the two races cannot fail to be politically disastrous to Greece, even if victory were on the side of the latter, as it would alienate these kindred races, that ought, as the Albanians themselves maintain, to bear mutual respect, and work side by side for their common weal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 178.

E *Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)*
(No. 616.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 16, 1880.*

THE Earl of Dufferin will return this evening to St. Petersburgh, at a moment when the repose, which has existed since the cession of Dulcigno, has just been interrupted by the communication yesterday, by the Turkish Ambassador to M. de Giers, of the Circular in which the Porte calls the attention of the Powers to the armaments of Greece.

Chakir Pasha informs me that M. de Giers appeared to be much put out by this communication, and made no reply beyond stating that he would consult the other Powers as to the view they entertain of the step now taken by Turkey.

The Greek question having thus been brought directly into prominence, I think it right to recapitulate what I believe to be the present views of this Government.

With the Russians generally Greece meets with but little sympathy, and there will be no inclination here to do more than is absolutely necessary to help them. The Russians think that some change will have to be made in the line as laid down by the Conference of Berlin, and that Greece must be satisfied with less than was there accorded to her in theory by the Powers.

On the other hand, the desire—of the Foreign Department, at all events—to act with Great Britain is so great, that they will probably, in order to please us, go further in favour of the Greeks than their own policy would otherwise lead them to do.

How far this desire of friendship with Great Britain is entertained by the other governing power in Russia, I have no means of judging with any accuracy. His Imperial Highness the Czarewitch keeps his counsels to himself, and his Imperial Highness is now becoming a power with whom it is necessary to count; moreover, I still fear that the War Department, who know that Great Britain must be opposed to those schemes of ambition which I do not think they have yet abandoned, will probably look with small favour on a close friendship with a Power whose calming influence, although really good for the solid interests of Russia, is opposed to the realization of those wild schemes on which the fortunes of the military party depend.

In my despatch No. 595, Most Confidential, of the 8th instant, I had the honour to report the language held by a high German authority as to the certainty, before very long, of an outbreak of hostilities between this country and Germany. Yesterday I heard almost similar language from a Polish resident here, from whom I often have had much useful information, and to whose opinions I attach much value. He was ridiculing the word "Panslavism," which he maintained should be called "Russism." As to the Slavs generally, there was only one point of union among them, viz., the deadly and unreasoning hatred all Slavs bear towards the Germans.

I inquired whether the Poles looked upon a war between Russia and Germany

as probable. He replied that he thought it almost inevitable, and that before very long.

Poland would, of course, be the battle-field, and would suffer the most; but, if it ended in the transfer of their country to Austria, no Pole, he thought, would regret the sacrifices which it might be necessary to go through to attain such an end.

With this prospect of a deadly struggle with Germany always in their thoughts, it is natural that Russia should desire to make friendship wherever she can.

France having failed her entirely, it is now to England that Russia turns for sympathy, while at the same time she courts the good-will of Roumania, and endeavours to place her relations with the Vatican on a more friendly footing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 179.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 574.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December* 17, 1880.

THE new note from the Porte upon the Greek frontier question has been received at Berlin, and forwarded to Friedrichsrühe, and Count Limburg Stirum tells inquiring diplomatists that, until it has returned from thence, he must reserve his opinion upon it.

I hope to see his Excellency to-morrow, and learn what impression it has made on the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 180.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 575. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December* 18, 1880.

MR. PLUNKETT in two very interesting despatches, No. 595, Most Confidential, of the 8th, and No. 616 of the 16th instant, reports the language held to him at St. Petersburgh by high German authorities as to the certainty before long of an outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Germany.

I note that for some time past high German authorities elsewhere hold similar language in confidential conversation with foreign Agents, and I conclude, as there is obviously less reason now than heretofore for a quarrel between Germany and Russia, that they speak under instructions from Berlin to convey an impression for which there is no real foundation, and about which, if there was, they would be instructed to hold their official tongues.

The hatred of race is so great between Germany and Russia, that a war might not be unpopular with the people of both countries; but so long as the rulers see no advantage in letting their armies fight, there is no danger of a conflict.

As matters now stand, Germany has nothing whatever to gain from war with Russia; and Russia, when Eastern affairs are occupying the attention of Europe, has every reason to conciliate Germany and her ally, Austria.

War with Russia would bring Austria into the field against her as Germany's ally, in virtue of their defensive alliance of September 1879, and Russia must know and feel that she is not at present in a condition to fight both Austria and Germany simultaneously with any chance of success.

On the other hand, Germany and Austria, however much they may now reckon on the weakness of French statesmen, must know and feel that a change of Government in France may bring about a change of policy, and that an alliance between France and Russia is not absolutely impossible, from which Germany would suffer most, even though her military authorities feel strong enough to vanquish both France and Russia allied against her.

For these reasons, it appears to me that an outbreak of hostilities between Russia

and Germany is less likely now than heretofore, Russia and Germany having absolutely nothing to gain and much to lose from a conflict.

There is, I fancy, more reason to apprehend a practical understanding between Germany, Russia, and Austria in regard to Eastern affairs, which may prove fatal to Turkish rule in the Balkan Peninsula.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 181.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

E
(No. 576. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December* 18, 1880.

M. DE SABUROFF, the Russian Ambassador, leaves to-night for St. Petersburgh, where he intends to remain for three or four weeks.

His Excellency, who paid a visit to Prince Bismarck at Friedrichsrühe last week, tells me that he was well pleased with the friendly reception he met with there, and with the language generally held by Prince Bismarck in regard to Russia.

In regard to Eastern affairs, his Excellency said Prince Bismarck held the same language to him as he had previously done to the French Ambassador and to myself; that is, he said that he wished to maintain and adhere to the European concert, and to carry out the Berlin Treaty and Conference by moral means and pressure only, but that he would not take part in any coercive measures, although he would not interfere if any of the other Powers saw fit to do so without Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 182.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

E
(No. 577. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December* 18, 1880.

MY French colleague has just called to tell me that he has received a telegram from Paris, according to which his Government had suggested unofficially to the Powers to settle the Greek question by arbitration if Turkey and Greece could be persuaded to submit to it, and that this suggestion had been more favourably received in London than at Vienna, St. Petersburgh, or Rome; Prince Bismarck, he said, had not yet pronounced any opinion about it.

Another suggestion, his Excellency said, had been made by M. Tissot and Count Hatzfeldt, which was to accept the new overtures of the Porte, advise them to make a larger concession to Greece, persuade Greece to accept it provisionally, and reserve for future consideration and discussion the best means for carrying out the rest of the Berlin award.

Count de St. Vallier said that he expected details by post, and would let me know as soon as he had received them.

Count Hatzfeldt, he heard, was expected here early next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 183.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 570. Extender.)
My Lord, *Rome, December* 17, 1880.

A COPY of the Turkish Circular, dated the 14th December, calling the attention of the Powers to the warlike preparations in Greece, was received by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs the day before yesterday evening.

I am informed by M. Malvano that M. Cairoli has instructed the Italian Ambassadors to communicate with the Courts to which they are accredited upon the subject of this Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 184.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received December* 20.)

Admiralty, December 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 8th instant, reporting that the allied squadron had finally separated, and calling attention to the assistance he had received during the last three months from Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affairs at Cettinjé, Captain Sale, R.E., Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the boundary of Montenegro, and his assistant, Lieutenant Caillard, R.E.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Alexandra," at Malta, December 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the allied fleet, recently under my command in the Adriatic, and composed of the squadrons of Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Austria, and Germany, finally dispersed on the forenoon of Sunday last, the 5th instant, at sea, off the Bocche di Cattaro, eight days after the object of its having assembled, namely, the cession of the town and district of Dulcigno, had been attained.

2. On the night of Saturday, the 4th, I received their Lordships' telegraphic instructions authorizing me to make the signal to part company, and, having done so, to proceed with Her Majesty's squadron to Malta, leaving the Austrian vessels in their own waters.

Shortly before these orders reached me Commodore Nauta, commanding the Austrian squadron, had furnished me with a copy of the instructions he had received from his Government, which, whilst acquainting him that Austria was in accord with Great Britain and the other Powers as to there being no necessity for the allied fleet to remain longer in the Adriatic, directed him, should the several squadrons leave in company, to weigh and proceed with them into the offing, where they would finally separate.

3. The Commander of the German corvette "Victoria" also informed me that he should weigh with the Austrian vessels and return with them to Castel Nuova to await the arrival of his mails from Trieste.

4. At 9·30 A.M. of Sunday the 5th instant, as previously arranged, the English, French, and Italian squadrons, then lying in Teodo Bay, weighed, and, having formed in single line a-head, in the order of the seniority of their Commanders—English, French, Italian, proceeded down the Bocche and passed close to the Russian squadron in Meljine Bay, which was weighing, and eventually followed us to sea. The Austrian squadron and the German corvette "Victoria" were already under weigh, and on my passing, they formed in line on the port side and so proceeded to sea.

Each foreign Commander saluted my flag on weighing, and on our passing the respective ships hearty cheers were exchanged.

5. When well clear of the forts at the entrance of Cattaro, I made the general signal requesting the allied squadrons to part company when convenient, on which the Austrian and German ships immediately turned to port and returned to their former anchorages. The French flag-ship and the "Hirondelle" shaped a course for Toulon, and the "Reine Blanche" for the Pirœus.

The Italian squadron steered direct for Brindisi. The Russian squadron has been ordered to Naples and the German corvette to Malta.

6. I proceeded to Malta in the "Monarch," where I arrived yesterday forenoon, having detached the "Thunderer" to carry out torpedo practice and a "full-speed" trial.

She rejoined me here to-day.

The "Condor" also parted company off Cattaro to return to Meljine Bay, to remain forty-eight hours to pick up any stray letters or telegrams that might arrive. From Cattaro the "Condor" will call at Brindisi on her way to rejoin my flag. The "Falcon" is due here to-morrow from Brindisi.

7. I take this opportunity of requesting their Lordships to bring to the notice of the Foreign Office the assistance I received during the last three months from Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, as well as from Captain Sale, R.E., Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the boundary of Montenegro, and his assistant, Lieutenant Caillard, R.E.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP P. SEYMOUR.

No. 185.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December* 20, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 577 of the 18th instant, Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that Germany will accept French proposal to settle Greek question by arbitration on three conditions:—

1. That Turkey and Greece consent to it.
2. That Powers vote by majority.
3. That Powers agree not to use coercion to enforce arbitration in case of failure.

No. 186.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December* 20, 1880.

NO further instructions having been received as to commencing delineation, I propose, with your Lordship's approval, to go on Thursday next to Rome, and there to await further orders, unless there is any special reason for my remaining here, this place being extremely inconvenient as regards communications.

The French Commissioner is absent, and the Italian has left.

In compliance with proposal in my despatch No. 38 of the 13th instant to your Lordship, I have prepared certified maps and specifications in detail of the new line between lake and the sea. Of these I arrange to leave copies here and at Scutari, so that I can have them handed in to the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities as soon as your Lordship authorizes me to do so.

May I be informed by telegraph if your Lordship approves of my going to Rome?

No. 187.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 386.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 20, 1880.

I HEAR to-day from Russian Embassy as positive that the Sultan is to receive French Legion of Honour.

No. 188.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 387.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 20, 1880.

PORTE asks for your Lordship's reply to note inclosed in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 372 of the 20th September last.

No. 189.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 666.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 20, 1880, 6·35 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 133—French proposal for arbitration on Greek frontier:—

Inform French Government that Her Majesty's Government are desirous to concert a reasonable mode of settling the Greek question; for that purpose would be desirous of favourably considering whatever plan the French Government may put forward. But it would be difficult to form any definite opinion on their present suggestion, involving a material deviation from the previous attitude of the Powers, without further explanations as to its principle and details.

In the meantime, I should be glad to know whether the French Government have mentioned the proposal to other Governments, and if so, whether it has been received with favour.

No. 190.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1584. Extender.)
Foreign Office, December 20, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Excellency has informed me, by telegraph, of the desire expressed by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government will agree in principle that the mediation of the Six Powers on the Greek frontier question shall be converted into an arbitration, by the decision of which both Turkey and Greece should engage beforehand to be bound.

The French Minister appears further to have expressed the opinion that, supposing the Powers consent to such an arbitration, the first step to be taken should be to endeavour to obtain the consent of the Porte to such a mode of arrangement.

I request that your Excellency will inform the French Government, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government are desirous to concert a reasonable mode of settling the Greek frontier question, and for that purpose would be desirous of favourably considering whatever plan the French Government may put forward; but it would be difficult to form any definite opinion on their present suggestion, involving a material deviation from the previous attitude of the Powers, without further explanations as to its principle and details.

I should, in the meantime, be glad to learn from your Excellency whether the French Government have mentioned the proposal respecting arbitration to other Governments, and, if so, whether it has been received with favour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 191.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 21.)

E
Admiralty, December 18, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 8th instant, relative to the parting company of the allied squadron, and the cordial assistance received from the foreign Commanders assembled in the Adriatic, with a view of such communications being addressed to the foreign Governments concerned as may appear to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to be desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,
"Alexandra," at Malta, December 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a telegraphic communication received on the evening of the 4th instant from Commodore Nauta, the Commander of the Austrian squadron attached to the allied fleet then assembled in the Bocche di Cattaro.

2. In forwarding this document I desire to take the opportunity of bringing to their Lordships' notice the cordial and hearty assistance I at all times during the existence of the naval demonstration received from my colleagues the Foreign Commanders in carrying out the special service entrusted to the allied fleet in the Adriatic, and I request their Lordships, should they see fit to do so, will convey to the respective Governments represented by Rear-Admiral Lafont, Commanding the squadron of the French Republic; Rear-Admiral Fincati, Commanding the squadron of His Majesty the King of Italy; Rear-Admiral de Kroemer, Commanding the squadron of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia; Commodore Nauta, Commanding the squadron of His Imperial and Royal Majesty the Emperor of Austria; Commander Valois, Commanding the corvette "Victoria," of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany, the expression of my thanks to those officers and the officers and men under their respective commands, for the friendly and efficient manner that all duties entrusted to them, whilst I had the honour to command them, have been performed.

3. From the first gathering of the allied fleet to its parting company the endeavour of all under my command, the Captains and officers of Her Majesty's ships, as well as those of the foreign vessels, was to maintain the friendly intercourse which was necessary to the success of the expedition, a result which I am glad to be able to report no incident occurred to mar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

Telegram from the Austrian Admiralty to Commodore Nauta.

December 3, 1880.

ANSWER to your telegram of yesterday.

Tell his Excellency Sir Beauchamp Seymour that we regard the fleet's demonstration as finished, and we have given our consent to the dissolution of the united fleet. If the other squadrons leave in company you will attend them a few miles into the open sea and take leave there. You will return after this to Melinje, and wait for orders to what port our ships will be directed. At the same time we address ourselves to the English Government by means of which we express our thanks to his Excellency for his circumspection and for his kind direction as Chief Commander, as well as for the friendly terms on which the officers of all squadrons have been.

Make communication of this to his Excellency Sir Beauchamp Seymour.

No. 192.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 21, 8 P.M.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 21, 1880, 6·46 P.M.

THE French Ambassador has just communicated to Baron Haymerle a proposal of his Government that the Powers should declare themselves ready to arbitrate between Turkey and Greece if the two parties express a wish to that effect.

I have not seen Baron Haymerle since communication was made, but I understand him to have shown a disposition to agree to take part in an arbitration provided the Turkish and Greek Governments not only invite it, but declare that they will submit to the decision that it may come to.

No. 193.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 21, 11 P.M.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 21, 1880, 8 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador inquired, by order of his Government, this morning whether Italian Government would be inclined to view favourably a proposal to settle the Greek frontier question by arbitration of the six Great Powers. Count Maffei replied affirmatively.

No. 194.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E
(No. 678.)
Walmer Castle, December 21, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador paid me a visit here to-day for a few hours.

He informed me that copies of the Porte's Circulars on the Greek frontier question had been communicated to the Italian Government, but that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs had declined to return any answer until he had communicated with the other Powers on the subject.

I told General Menabrea that I had given exactly the same answer to Musurus Bey.

His Excellency said that, beyond what he had read in the newspapers, he knew nothing of the recent proposal of the French Government that the mediation of the Six Powers should be converted into an arbitration.

I informed him confidentially of the substance of the French proposal, of the answer which I had returned in the first instance, and of that which I was about to return in reply to Lord Lyons' despatch No. 1167, Confidential, of the 18th instant.

Copies of this correspondence are inclosed for your Excellency's information.*

I said that it was not quite clear how the German answer was to be viewed, but that the acceptance of the French proposal was certainly conditional upon the previous assent of Turkey and Greece to the arbitration, and upon the understanding that the decision of the Powers should be taken by a majority of votes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 195.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 679.)
Walmer Castle, December 21, 1880.

Sir,

AT the interview which I had with the Italian Ambassador to-day he called my attention to the warm manner in which M. Cairoli had, in the course of the discussion in the Senate, defended the policy of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Eastern question, and to the success which had attended the explanation.

I begged that General Menabrea would have the goodness, whenever he was in personal communication with the Italian Ministers, to express to them how agreeable each new proof of the cordial feeling of Italy towards England was to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 196.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 770.)
Foreign Office, December 21, 1880.

Sir,

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me, on the 15th instant, the telegram from the Turkish Government of which a copy is herewith inclosed,† upon the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier. I made no remarks upon this

* Nos. 172, 189, and 203 (December 22).

† No. 144.

document, which, I said, I concluded was a Circular, and would be communicated to the other Powers. I should therefore consult with them as to the answer to be returned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 197.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December 21, 1880.*

AT an interview with Sir Julian Pauncefote on the 17th instant your Excellency expressed a wish to be informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the recent Circular which the Porte has addressed to its Representatives abroad upon the Greek frontier question.

I have the honour to state to your Excellency that a copy of this Circular has been communicated to me by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in this country, but that Her Majesty's Government do not propose to return any answer until they have ascertained what are the opinions of the other Powers with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 198.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

E
(No. 154. Political.)
Salonica, December 11, 1880.

My Lord,

REPORTS have reached here from Uscup that the Albanians in that town, acting under the influence of the League, refuse to recognize the appointment of Arif Effendi as their Mutessarif in the room of Kemali Effendi, who has been recalled by the Porte.

They have taken possession of the Vardar Bridge leading into the town, and sent notice to Arif Effendi that he will not be allowed to enter the place as Governor.

They have also telegraphed to Osman Pasha, the Vali of Cossova, to cancel the new appointment, as the inhabitants were satisfied with the conduct of Kemali Effendi, and determined not to submit to the authority of the above-named Arif Effendi.

It appears they accused the latter of corrupt practices during his former administration of their sandjak about a year ago, when his brother, Nazif Pasha, the present Minister of Vacoufs, was Vali of Cossova.

Osman Pasha at first threatened to employ force against them, but in consequence of telegraphic orders from the Porte is now trying to arrange the matter in a conciliatory and peaceable manner, but I doubt if he will succeed as against the rule of the League, which appears to be paramount just now not only in Uscup, but in Kalkandelen, Katchanik, Prisrend, Dibra, Mat, Ipek, and Jacova as well.

In fact, from all I gather from persons who have recently visited the interior, those districts are in a state of open revolt against the Ottoman authorities. They have successfully resisted the conscription this year; and I am assured that at Uscup and most of the above-named districts the local Courts, as organized under the new Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure, have been closed and their Judges dismissed by the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 199.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 155. Political.)
Salonica, December 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter which I have received from a correspondent at Volo, relative to the improved state of affairs in that district, and the number of troops in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Extract from a Letter from Volo, dated December 10, 1880.

QUANT à la sécurité publique du Caza de Volo, avant un mois personne ne pouvait aller d'un village à l'autre sans avoir le danger d'être capturé pas les brigands, dont assez de petits corps existaient sur le Pélion.

Mais dès le moment que les gardes Chrétiens ont été nommés aucun brigandage a eu lieu; les habitants vont librement à leurs propriétés, surtout à cette époque de la récolte d'huile, et personne ne se plaint contre cette situation de la sécurité. Hors les gardes Chrétiens quelques détachements des troupes régulières se trouvent établis à deux ou trois échelles du Golfe et animent la sécurité publique.

Voici un Tableau des débarquements ou embarquements des troupes à Volo :—

Débarquées—				
Novembre 11,	par paquebot	Français "Asie,"	de Constantinople	.. 350
,, 16,	,,	Ture "Djanik,"	,,	.. 1,200
,, 18,	,,	Français "Algérie,"	,,	.. 370
,, 25,	,,	Ture "Djanik,"	,,	.. 1,200
Décembre 1,	,,	,, "Selanik,"	,,	.. 160
Recrues, totale				.. 3,280
Embarquées—				
Octobre 27,	par transport	"Medjidieh,"	pour Dulcigno ..	.. 1,500
Novembre 20,	,,	"Fevaidi,"	,, ,, ..	.. 500
Totale				.. 2,000

Il y a actuellement dans toute la Province de Thessalie 18,000 hommes des troupes y compris la gendarmerie.

No. 200.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 15.) *Prevesa, December 11, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translated copy of Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis' despatch, dated the 30th ultimo, relating to the alleged disgraceful conduct of the Government troops in the district of Conitza.

In forwarding the original translation of the above despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople I also acquaint his Excellency that the Austrian steamer "Laerte" called again at our port on Wednesday last and landed 636 more soldiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.) *Janina, November 30, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that about midnight on the 18th instant 500 regular and irregular soldiers entered and sacked the village of Brazia (Conitza), and, after committing all sorts of violence, quitted the village, carrying away with them sixty animals laden with the plunder.

The same thing they also committed at Kerássovo, another village of Conitza, which they entered on the 20th instant at 3 o'clock at night (Turkish time), and the women from fear took refuge in the mountains.

I am, &c.

(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 201.

Mr. Summa to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

Telegraphic.) *Scutari, December 21, 1880.*

[Group wrong] according to mountain Chiefs Turkish General has taken possession of position of Tusi, whence he yesterday sent three battalions of troops. The news [?] confirmed rigorous state of siege, although perfectly tranquil in province.

(Copy sent to Embassy.)

No. 202.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 668.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 22, 1880, 12·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's telegram No. 385 of the 19th, urge French Government to instruct their Commissioner to proceed to Montenegro for delimitation of frontier between the lake and the sea.

No. 203.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22, 5 P.M.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 22, 1880, 3 P.M.*

PRIME Minister told me to-day that he had telegraphed to Greek Representatives to Great Powers that Greece would not accept arbitration if proposed. Circular of Porte of 14th instant has not been officially communicated to Greek Government, but Prime Minister said emphatically that this Government would refuse decision to renew direct negotiations with Porte; and unless they could obtain by pacific measures what they claimed, they would, as soon as they are prepared, at all risk attempt to take it by force.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 204.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 669.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 22, 1880, 5·25 P.M.*

YOUR Excellency's despatch No. 1167, Confidential—Greek frontier question:—

Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree to the proposal of French Government, as explained in your Excellency's despatch, on the condition that Turkey and Greece agree to the arbitration and are ready to abide by the award.

It does not, however, seem to me very likely that these Powers will agree to these conditions.

No. 205.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 22, 1880, 4·45 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 668 of to-day.

French Commissioner started for Montenegro some days ago.

No. 206.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 22, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 666 of the 20th.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs says that the other four Powers have all accepted his arbitration proposal. I send you a written Report this evening.

No. 207.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 22, 1880.*

MONTENEGRIN frontier.

Baron Haymerle does not think it would be desirable to adopt Captain Sale's proposal for sending identic instructions to the Commissioners.

He believes that Commissioners themselves can judge on the spot what should be done better than their Governments.

Consul Lippich, who concerted upon line with Mr. Green, is the Austrian Commissioner, and he has been instructed to give his colleagues every information, and to endeavour to expedite the settlement as much as possible by conciliatory attitude, which it is thought can easily be managed, as information has already been received that Dervish Pasha [four groups wrong to the end].

No. 208.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22, 8·15 P.M.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 22, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

BARON HAYMERLE has answered the French proposal about arbitration on the Greek frontier question by stating his readiness to agree to it on condition that the two parties engage to be bound by the decision, and that it shall be distinctly understood, if it leads to nothing, or, if either party refuses to carry [out] its engagement, Austrian Government shall not be expected to take any steps to enforce the award. He has further requested the French Government to elaborate all the details of the measure very carefully, and with a view to all contingencies, before the proposal is formally made. There is, he says, no immediate danger of a conflict between Turkey and Greece, and the proposition would perhaps be with greatest effect when the risk was becoming imminent.

No. 209.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1585. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1880.*

WITH reference to the information telegraphed by Mr. St. John on the 19th instant, that the Ottoman Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier between the Adriatic and Scutari Lake had been instructed to join those of the Powers and Montenegro, and that Dervish Pasha had received instructions to take the necessary measures for the protection of the Commission, I have to request that your Excellency will urge the French Government to instruct their Commissioner to proceed to Montenegro to join his colleagues on the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 210.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1592. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1167, Confidential, of the 18th instant, reporting an interview which you have had with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, in which his Excellency set forth the views of the French Government as to the manner in which the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier might be dealt with, the purport of his Excellency's proposal being that, instead of proceeding by means of simple mediation, the Six Powers should act as arbitrators, both Turkey and Greece agreeing beforehand to submit unreservedly to the decision of the arbitrators, whatever it might be.

Your Excellency's despatch further records M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire's views as to the preliminary steps which would be necessary to pave the way for this object, and refers to the probable attitude of the Powers, whilst M. St. Hilaire, it appears, has expressed

the willingness of his Government to take the initiative in this matter if the other Powers should desire it.

In reply to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire's desire to know whether Her Majesty's Government were ready to agree in principle to the plan of arbitration, as above set forth, I have to request that you will inform his Excellency that they will be ready to agree to this proposal on the condition already stated, that both Turkey and Greece agree to the arbitration, and are ready to abide by the award.

I must, however, add that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, there is not much likelihood of those Powers being willing to pledge themselves to this arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 211.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 810.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1880.*

IN the report of your Excellency's conversation with Baron Haymerle given in your despatch No. 771 of the 30th ultimo, I notice that Baron Haymerle, in stating his objections to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the separation of the united fleets, and your Excellency, in answering those objections, seem to have argued on the supposition that the proposal comprised or necessarily involved a future re-assembly of the fleets.

This, however, is not the case. The proposal, as conveyed in my despatch No. 768 of the 26th ultimo was that, as soon as the Montenegrins should be in possession of Dulcigno, the several Admirals should be directed to take separate cruizes, with pre-arranged places of call for orders in case of the necessity arising for special instructions to be sent to them. The question of sending such instructions, and of their nature, was left entirely open for future discussion and for the decision of each Government.

The decision of the Austrian Government that their ships should remain in Austrian waters, which has now been communicated to Her Majesty's Government, is, in fact, a compliance with their proposal, and the matter is now at an end, but it may be as well that you should take an opportunity of pointing out to Baron Haymerle the misunderstanding which appears to have existed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 212.

E *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)*

(No. 381.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 15, 1880.*

M. NICHOLAS CHICHKINE delivered, on the 13th instant, to the King of Greece, the letters accrediting him as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Russia at this Court.

In the few words spoken on the occasion by His Majesty and M. Chichkine there were no political allusions made, and the compliments and courtesies usual on such occasions were alone interchanged.

M. Chichkine was charged by his Government with no special message to that of Greece; and in his conversation with the Prime Minister, he has confined himself to expressing the hope that this country will not act rashly by prematurely declaring war against Turkey, in which case she was likely to find herself isolated, but trust to the good offices of the Powers for the realization of her desire for a new frontier.

In effect, M. Chichkine has made use of language similar to that held on their arrival here by MM. de Radowitz and de Moüy, as reported to your Lordship in my despatches No. 359 of the 24th ultimo and No. 363, Confidential, of the 27th of the same month, and has received the same reply from M. Coumoundouros, to the effect that Greece is too far committed to the course she has adopted to admit of her discontinuing her preparations under present circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 213.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 1176. Extender.)
Paris, December 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I MENTIONED to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon, that Her Majesty's Government were informed that the Turkish Commissioner for marking out the frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the Adriatic had been instructed to join the Commissioners of the other Powers and of Montenegro on the spot, and that Dervish Pasha had received orders to take measures for the protection of the Commissioners during their labours.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that the French Commissioner had left Paris for Montenegro some days ago.

I have already made this known to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 214.

E *Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)*

(No. 1178.)
Paris, December 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I MADE known to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon, in the terms of the telegram which your Lordship did me the honour to address to me the day before yesterday, the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government with regard to his proposal that the Six Powers should convert their mediation on the Greek Frontier question into an arbitration.

Having told his Excellency that I had called at his office to make this communication to him the day before, but had found that he was detained at the Senate, I proceeded to ask him for explanations as to the principle and details of his proposal, and as to the reception it had met with from other Powers.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire began by telling me that Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy had already signified to him their acceptance of his proposal in principle. Austria and Germany had accompanied their acceptance with a declaration that they were not in any way to be led on towards the adoption of coercive measures; but France, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said, was quite as determined as they were on this point; indeed, it was of the essence of the arbitration that it was absolutely pacific.

His Excellency proceeded to give me explanations, of which the substance was as follows:—

His intention is not that the Powers shall offer their arbitration to the contending parties, but that Turkey and Greece shall be brought to ask for it. The condition *sine qûd non* is that each of the two countries shall bind itself, absolutely and unreservedly beforehand, to abide by the decision of the Powers, whatever that decision may be.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire has already written to the French Representatives at Constantinople and Athens to explain this plan to them, and to authorize them, within certain limits, to use, if occasion serves, language calculated to promote the acceptance of it.

If he receives the adhesion of England, as he has already received that of Austria, Germany, Italy, and Russia, he will send more formal instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to take steps to induce the Porte to refer the questions between itself and Greece to the arbitration of the Powers. He will also instruct the French Representatives in London, Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Vienna to request that directions may be sent to the Representatives of the other Powers at the Porte to act in concert with the French Ambassador for the same purpose.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire thinks that the Porte may be induced to refer the matter to arbitration by the conviction it must feel that the arbitrators cannot but come to a decision more favourable to it than that of the Conference of Berlin.

On the other hand, he conceives that if Turkey asks for arbitration, Greece can hardly help following the example; and that she must see that even if she gets somewhat less than was assigned to her at Berlin, it will be of the greatest advantage to her to obtain acquisitions which will still be considerable without war with Turkey, and

to secure an honourable means of retreat from her financial difficulties, and from the false position in which she now stands.

Supposing the two parties to have agreed to the arbitration, the time will then come to settle details as to the mode in which it shall be executed. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire does not conceive that another formal Conference will be either necessary or advisable. He supposes that the Powers will be able to come to an agreement as to their Award by ordinary diplomatic communications with each other.

It has occurred to him that, as a proof of their sincerity, and as a security against all chance of collision, Turkey and Greece might each withdraw its troops to a certain distance within its present frontier. Afterwards, when the definitive frontier had been settled by the Award of the Six Powers, it might be marked out in the space thus left free by Commissioners deputed by them for the purpose.

Having given me these explanations, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he had sent instructions to the French Ambassador in London, which would enable him to express the views of the French Government in detail to your Lordship. He concluded by expressing an earnest hope that the concert of Europe would soon be made complete by the adhesion of Great Britain to the plan now adopted by France and the other Four Powers.

I imagine that the acceptance of Austria, Germany, Russia, and Italy has been made by all of them, more or less explicitly, dependent (1) upon the adhesion of the Six Great Powers without any exception; and (2) upon the absolute engagement both of Turkey and Greece to be bound by the Award of the Arbitrators.

I understand that Russia has laid especial stress upon this last point, as one necessary to the dignity of the Governments, and to their placing themselves in a better position than that which they now occupy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 215.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.)
Athens, December 22, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 66 of this day, French Minister has been instructed by his Government to ascertain, unofficially, from Greek Government how they would receive a proposal of arbitration on the frontier question.

Prime Minister spoke less positively on the subject to M. Moüy than to me, but said it was impossible for Greece to consent to accept less than was recommended at Berlin; he did not, however, refuse to consider the matter, and said he would consult his colleagues. French Minister told him distinctly that no support was to be expected from France if Greece attempted to take possession of territory by force, and that refusal to accept arbitration, if offered, would entirely alienate French sympathy, which was much greater on the part of Government than on that of the country.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 216.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, December 22, 1880.

THE Russian Government will accept in principle the French proposition for an arbitration between Greece and Turkey, provided those two Powers bind themselves implicitly beforehand to accept the decision arrived at.

No. 217.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December 22, 1880.*

SINCE I sent off my despatch No. 1178 of to-day, I have received your telegram No. 669, and have communicated it to Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he intends to set to work immediately about arbitration in the manner indicated in my despatch above mentioned.

No. 218.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 23, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 390.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 23, 1880, 11·15 A.M.*

COUNT CORTI tells me that, according to language held by Greek Minister to Italian Minister at Athens, Greece is willing to accept arbitration if Powers bind themselves to enforce their decision within a prescribed time.

(Sent to Mr. Corbett.)

No. 219.

Acting Consul-General Summa to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

E
(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 14 Décembre, 1880.*

FAISANT suite à mes deux dépêches télégraphiques datées du 4 et 13 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de donner à votre Seigneurie les renseignements détaillés.

Dervich Pacha voyant que, malgré ses conseils et ses menaces, les Albanais étaient toujours décidés à la résistance, vu l'impossibilité d'effectuer la remise de Dulcigno sans effusion de sang, se vit obligé d'avoir recours à la force des armes pour que cette question fût resolue.

En effet, il marcha avec ses troupes sur Dulcigno, et aux environs de la ville il rencontra un petit nombre de Musulmans Albanais, qui les premiers ouvrirent le feu sur les troupes Impériales. Après un combat de cinq heures Dervich Pacha les a battus, et la plupart des Albanais qui s'attendait d'être attaquée dans un autre endroit, voyant que la résistance aurait été inutile, et pour éviter une plus grande effusion de sang, décida la retraite, et personne ne s'opposa plus à la marche de Dervich Pacha, qui pénétra avec ses troupes à Dulcigno, dont il effectua la remise au Monténégro.

Les pertes des troupes Impériales Ottomanes dans ce combat s'élèvent à 60 tués et 50 blessés; celles des Albanais, à 19 tués et 15 blessés, et je suis fondé à croire que ce chiffre soit exact, ayant puisées mes informations à des sources dignes de foi.

Dès que Dervich Pacha fut de retour ici, qu'il accorda une amnistie à tous les habitants compromis dans les derniers événements; mais cette amnistie n'a été pleine et entière que pour les seuls Musulmans, car le Commandant Turc a fait saisir et emprisonner à Alessio les Chefs Chrétiens des montagnes, pour le fait que le jour du combat ils s'étaient réunis en grand nombre à St. Jean de Medua, dans le but de marcher au secours de Dulcigno, et ces Chefs n'ont été mis en liberté qu'après quelques jours d'une détention arbitraire.

J'ai l'honneur aussi de rapporter à votre Seigneurie que Prenk Bib Doda, le Chef des Mirdites, avant-hier a été invité par le Commandant Turc pour une partie de plaisir jusqu'à Alessio, et dès qu'ils furent arrivés, Dervich Pacha déclara à Prenk et à Hado Pacha, l'ex-Commandant des Albanais à Touzi, que Sa Majesté le Sultan, désirant les voir, ils devaient partir immédiatement pour Constantinople, et ils les fit escorter par des troupes jusqu'à bord de la frégate Turque "Selimié," qui attendait à Medua, et qu'on m'annonce déjà en voyage.

Je crois de mon devoir de soumettre à la haute appréciation de votre Seigneurie que le fait de Prenk Bib Doda a causé une mauvaise impression parmi la population Catholique de Scutari et des montagnes.

On ignore les motifs qui ait décidé le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman à l'éloigner d'ici, et je suis convaincu qu'étant (Prenk) bien vu par tous les Chefs des montagnes, le

Gouvernement Ottoman a cru dans son intérêt d'avoir à l'éloigner, pouvant être sa présence ici un obstacle aux intentions du Gouvernment Ottoman dans le réglement de cette province.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) F. SUMMA.

No. 220.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 1180. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 22, 1880.*

SOME hours after I had sent off my despatch No. 1178 of to-day respecting the Greek Frontier Arbitration proposal, I had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 669 of this evening on the same subject.

Having an opportunity of communicating its contents immediately to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, I said to him that his proposal, as explained by him to me on the 18th instant,* would be assented to by Her Majesty's Government on the condition that Turkey and Greece accepted the arbitration, and were ready to abide by the Award. I added, however, that it seemed to your Lordship doubtful whether those two countries would in fact agree to this condition.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire expressed great satisfaction at the assent of Her Majesty's Government, and said that he should set to work at once, and take the steps which he had indicated to me in the conversation which we had had earlier in the day.

A report of this conversation is contained in my above-mentioned despatch No. 1178 of to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 221.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 24, 1880.*

THE French Ambassador having informed the Italian Government that the French Representatives at Athens and Constantinople had been instructed to urge the Greek and Turkish Governments to address a request to the Great Powers to settle the frontier question by arbitration, and having expressed a desire that the Italian Government should direct their Representatives in those capitals to speak in the same sense, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has instructed them to support the representations of the French Agents on this matter.

No. 222.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 24, 1880, 2·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' telegram No. 134, repeated to you, I presume that, as Commission is about to meet, you will abandon your journey to Rome.

No. 223.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24, 5 P.M.)

(No. 392.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1880.*

FRENCH Ambassador has sounded Porte, and tells me that the conviction that Greece refused arbitration would alone induce Turkey to accept one, on account of good position the latter would then hold before the Powers.

* See No. 172.

French Ambassador impressed me as inclined to counsel Porte to accept for that reason.

Turkish Ministers at Palace all yesterday and day before. French Ambassador expects to see Prime Minister on Saturday and hear result.

French Ambassador and Turks all under impression that initiative was taken by England.

(Sent to Mr. Corbett.)

No. 224.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 68. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's telegram to your Lordship of the 23rd instant, which was repeated to me, Count Corti is mistaken in his interpretation of language held by Greek Minister to Italian Minister at Athens relative to arbitration. My Italian colleague tells me that Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs said, in conversation, that Greece rejected arbitration absolutely, as she could not accept less than had been decided at Berlin. The former, however, inferred from language of Minister that if such proposal was made within definite limits as to time, Greek Government might be disposed to accept discussion of it.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 225.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 25.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 24, 1880.

ITALIAN Minister has been informed by his Government that French Ambassador at Constantinople and French Minister at Athens have been instructed to invite Turkey and Greece to ask for arbitration of Great Powers, and French Government has asked that Italian Representatives at Constantinople and Athens should be instructed to support, in conjunction with their other colleagues, their French colleagues, and give advice which they may judge useful for the success of the proceeding.

French Minister here has not, as yet, received definite instructions to make formal communication to Greek Government in the matter.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 226.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 25, 6 P.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 25, 1880, 1·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 69 of yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs has received from French Minister no formal communication on the subject of arbitration.

He has told latter, who has pressed him again on the subject, that, after consulting his colleagues, he maintained the view he had already expressed to him, to the effect that the result of arbitration could only be to diminish territory claimed by Greece, and that she would not ask for it; when he received official communication from French Government he would answer in that sense. It is certain that any other answer would cause immediate fall of present or any other Ministry which should accede to proposal.

Austrian Minister here has informally and in a general way supported the idea of arbitration.

None other of my colleagues has received instructions on the subject except Representative of Italy.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 227.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 25.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 24, 1880.

THE Provincial Assembly, at the instance of the Governor-General, has agreed to reduce the strength of Roumelian militia companies for the coming year from 208 to 160 men.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 228.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 25.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 25, 1880.

SESSION of Provincial Assembly was closed to-day by Governor-General.

No. 229.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 25, 7·38 P.M.)

(No. 393.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 25, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

JUST seen French Ambassador, whom I questioned as to his interview with the Prime Minister. He replied that Prime Minister was not at the Porte, and he had nothing to tell me. I could not infer that he saw latter at his own house, and I have good grounds for thinking that if he did so he must have met with an absolute refusal to submit Greek frontier question to arbitration.

No. 230.

M. Coumoundouros to M. Contostavlos.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Contostavlos, December* 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 24 Décembre*, 1880.

MINISTRE France m'a entretenu aujourd'hui sur question arbitrage et m'a demandé quelle serait pensée Gouvernement Hellénique sur ce moyen solution question. J'ai répondu que Grèce était en possession d'un titre octroyé par Europe et déterminant ligne-frontière déclarée par Puissances Européennes convenable aux intérêts des deux pays et de la paix Européenne. Que ce titre a été qualifié par Europe même comme irrévocable, et que Grèce par conséquent ne saurait ni ne voudrait s'en désister. D'ailleurs, Gouvernement ne serait pas à même de prendre en considération pareille éventualité si proposition formelle concernant arbitrage ne lui était pas adressée. C'est en ce dernier cas qu'il pourrait répondre. Pareil entretien je viens avoir avec Ministre Autriche nouvellement arrivé.

No. 231.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 25, 1880.

AN unfortunate incident has occurred in the Assembly.

During the discussion on the Budget votes were passed cancelling sum disbursed for furniture for the Governor-General's house, and abolishing posts of his Excellency's three Private Secretaries and of two of his Aides-de-camp.

Aleko Pasha is much offended and disheartened. His Private Secretary informed me that his Excellency intended to reject Budget and request leave of Sultan to proceed to Constantinople, with a view to tender his resignation.

Fearing that an open quarrel between the Governor-General and the Assembly, or his Excellency's departure at the present moment, would produce a very bad effect, and probably have the effect of reviving agitation, I thought it right to draw serious attention of Consuls to the matter.

Italian, Austrian, and French Consuls, and myself urge Governor-General to avoid adopting strong or hasty measures. Russian Consul-General kept aloof, defending vote of the Assembly.

Governor-General finally agreed to transmit Budget to Sultan for approval, declaring his intention of having his Private Secretaries and the two Aides-de-camp at his own expense.

Difficulty is hereby smoothed over for the moment.

No. 232.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 26, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday No. 96, I am this moment informed that Governor-General sent following telegram last night to Sultan, *en clair* :—

"I have the honour to inform your Majesty that I have closed the Session of the Provincial Assembly, and hasten to beg your Majesty to accept my resignation. I request your Majesty's permission to proceed to Constantinople to verbally expose to your Majesty the grave reasons which have led me to act thus."

I am ignorant of the further reasons which have induced his Excellency to tender his resignation.

I will telegraph after seeing his Excellency.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 233.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December* 26, 1880.

MAY I take as officially communicated to me the definition of the new boundary between the lake and the sea given in the Confidential memorandum inclosed in Mr. Green's despatch No. 146 [?] of the 13th June last to your Lordship? The definition there given was accepted by the Montenegrins, and it avoids the errors contained in the definition unofficially communicated to me in August last.

No. 234.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26, 3 P.M.)

(No. 394.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 26, 1880, 10:30 A.M.

COUNT CORTI has received instructions to support French Ambassador's proposal referring to arbitration. He thinks that under the circumstances French Ambassador should have informed him of what he is doing in the matter, and expresses much surprise and regret at reticence of M. Tissot.

Count Corti looks upon concert of Embassies at Constantinople as at an end.

No. 235.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 11, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 14 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from M. Zancoff, informing me that he had resigned his post as President of the Council of Ministers, and that the Prince of Bulgaria had charged M. Karaveloff, the Minister of Finance, with the formation of a new Cabinet, which is composed as follows:—

M. Karaveloff, President of the Council and Minister of Finance.

M. Zancoff, Minister of the Interior.

M. Slavéikoff, hitherto President of the National Assembly, Minister of Public Instruction.

M. Stoïtchoff, hitherto Director of the Post and Telegraph, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. Karaveloff will take charge of the Ministry of Justice for the present.

Although it was expected that some modifications in the Bulgarian Cabinet were about to take place in consequence of the incapacity of the former Ministers of Justice, Public Instruction, and the Interior, it was not anticipated that M. Zancoff would be replaced either in the Presidency of the Council or in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It appears, however, that his influence with the Chamber has greatly diminished, and although that body has not expressed any want of confidence in him, the formation of the new Cabinet can only be looked upon as the triumph of M. Karaveloff.

M. Stoïtchoff, who as Director of the Post and Telegraph, has been doing good work in organizing the postal service in Bulgaria, was very reluctant to leave a post in which he felt he was of use, and considerable pressure had to be put upon him to induce him to accept the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As far as I have been able to judge he is an intelligent and well-meaning man, but he has not sufficient influence or authority to enable him to take a leading position either in the Chamber or in the Council of Ministers.

The Government of the Principality will, therefore, practically be placed entirely in the hands of M. Karaveloff, who is said to be animated by Panslavist and Nihilistic tendencies, and to be in constant communication with the Russian Secret Societies at Moscow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 235.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le* 10 *Décembre*, 1880.

AYANT offert ma démission de la Présidence du Conseil à Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, notre auguste Maître a daigné appeler M. Karaveloff, Ministre des Finances, qu'il a chargé de la formation du Cabinet, qui se trouve composé comme suit :

Karaveloff, Président du Conseil et Ministre des Finances.

Dragan Zancoff, Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Slavéikoff, Ancien Président de l'Assemblée Nationale, Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.

Stoïtchoff, Ancien Directeur des Postes et Télégraphes, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et des Cultes. L'intérim du Ministère de la Justice sera fait par M. le Président du Conseil.

En portant ces changements à votre connaissance, je vous prie, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien accepter l'assurance du bon souvenir que j'emporte des excellentes relations que nous avons toujours eues; je vous remercie pour le concours bienveillant et obligeant que vous m'avez constamment prêté et si ma nouvelle situation me prive du plaisir de vous voir aussi fréquemment, soyez persuadé que je ne laisserai échapper aucune occasion pour vous prouver que j'ai su apprécier la manière digne dont vous avez toujours représenté votre pays auprès du Gouvernement Princier.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANCOFF.

No. 236.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 27.)

E
(No. 179. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 11, 1880.

ON the 3rd instant I had an interview with the Prince of Bulgaria, who expressed his opinion very openly with regard to his Ministers.

His Highness said that M. Zancoff's deceit and duplicity made it impossible to

conduct business with him in a satisfactory manner, and that he had now adopted the system of communicating with him almost entirely in writing, the weekly interview which he had with his Excellency being of the shortest possible duration.

With regard to M. Karaveloff, His Highness said that he would not attempt to conceal the personal dislike he entertained for him. He was well aware that M. Karaveloff had spoken and written against him, and that he had continually sought to weaken His Highness's authority. His Highness knew that he had nothing to hope for personally from M. Karaveloff, but he was a man of great intelligence, and had undoubtedly considerable influence and authority in the country. As a Constitutional Sovereign, His Highness preferred to have a Minister like M. Karaveloff than any of his former Ministers, who, although more agreeable to himself personally, had not the authority necessary to govern the country. His Highness admitted that he learnt more from M. Karaveloff, who had a clear and lucid manner of explaining the difficult questions with which he had to deal, than from any other of his Ministers.

The other members of the Cabinet were utterly incapable of conducting business, but it was so difficult to find Bulgarians fitted for the posts, that it would be difficult to replace them.

In reply to an observation of mine that General Ehrnrooth, the Minister of War, might be of great assistance in offering advice, His Highness said that, although he had the highest respect for the General's judgment, he had thought it right to suggest that he should keep aloof from all questions that might involve the existence of the Cabinet. He was in a different position to the other Ministers, having been designated by the Emperor of Russia as Minister of War, and the fall of the other Ministers would not affect his position, which, however, would be severely compromised if he were to take a leading part in any question which might result in the formation of a new Cabinet.

As regards his own position, the Prince said that his constant endeavour had been to work for the good of the country, and that he should certainly continue to do so. He, however, still regarded his position as Prince of Bulgaria in the light of an experiment, and, if it failed, he should be prepared to resign.

At the time that the Prince held this conversation with me he was not aware that the change of Ministry, which formed the subject of my preceding despatch, was so near at hand, all the negotiations which led to M. Zancoff's resignation having been secretly conducted by the leaders of the so-called Liberal party, and no information of what was going on having been communicated to His Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 237.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 181.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December 13, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 29th May last, I have the honour to report that the Bulgarian Naturalization Law has been passed by the National Assembly, after having been so amended as to meet the objections raised by the Servian and Roumanian Governments.

The 3rd Article now provides that persons of Bulgarian origin who emigrated from Turkey into Bulgaria, in consequence of the war, shall be entitled to become Bulgarian subjects on the production of a certificate from a Bulgarian Commune that they were domiciled in the Principality before the promulgation of the Law. For all other persons a residence of ten years in the Principality is required before they can acquire Bulgarian nationality.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a petition which was addressed to the Prince of Bulgaria by the Bulgarians of Roumania and Bessarabia before the Law was passed, calling attention to the services they had rendered to the country and to the hardship which would be entailed upon them by such a Law, and imploring his protection against the injustice which would be thereby committed.

I understand that His Highness sent this petition to M. Zancoff, with a strong recommendation that it should be favourably considered, in spite of which it appears that M. Zancoff himself suggested its rejection by the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 238.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 581. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 20, 1880.*

IN my despatch No. 577, Confidential, of the 18th instant, I had the honour of informing your Lordship that Prince Bismarck had not yet pronounced any opinion upon the suggestion which Count St. Vallier told me had been made unofficially by the French Government to the Powers as to the Greek question being settled by arbitration, if Turkey and Greece would be persuaded to submit to it.

Since I wrote the above despatch, I have learnt from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs that Germany is disposed to accept the French proposal on three conditions:—

1. That Turkey and Greece consent to the arbitration.
2. That the Powers shall decide by a majority of votes.
3. That they shall agree not to have recourse to coercion in order to enforce arbitration in case of failure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 239.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 801. Confidential.)
My Lord; *Vienna, December 20, 1880.*

THE Servian Minister has asked me with much alarm whether there was any intention on the part of the Powers to make a representation to his Government on the subject of the late Agrarian Law.

I said that I could not tell him whether any step was going to be taken on the subject, but that there was, I believed, a unanimous impression on the part of the Powers that the recent Law dealt unjustly with the Mussulman proprietors, and had not ensured to them the treatment guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Christich expressed an earnest hope that his Government might not be urged to repeal or modify the Law, as it would, he said, be quite impossible for them to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 805. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the French Ambassador this afternoon communicated to Baron Haymerle a proposal on the part of his Government that the Powers should declare their readiness to arbitrate between Turkey and Greece if invited to do so by those two countries.

I have not seen Baron Haymerle since the communication, for which he was no doubt fully prepared, was made to him, but I understood him at once to have intimated his willingness to agree to it, provided the Governments of Turkey and Greece not only invited an arbitration but engaged themselves to accept the Award that might be come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 807. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 22, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE is not of opinion that it would be desirable to adopt Captain Sale's suggestion that identic instructions should be sent to the Commissioners for marking out the frontier of the ceded district of Dulcigno.

There would, he considers, be an unnecessary loss of time while the Cabinets were concerting the instructions, and he believes that the Commissioners who are on the spot are better able than their Governments to judge of the course they should follow, especially as the maps of the district in question are known to be inaccurate.

The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner is Consul Lippich, who, in concert with Mr. Green, suggested the line that has been adopted, and he has been instructed to give his colleagues all the information he may have acquired while maturing the project, and to endeavour as much as possible to expedite a final settlement by maintaining a conciliatory attitude towards both parties, and, as information has already been received of Dervish Pasha abandoning Lescovic, Baron Haymerle believes that an agreement upon the very insignificant points still undecided will easily be brought about.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 809. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 22, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. , I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Haymerle tells me that he has answered the suggestion of the French Government for a European arbitration upon the Greek frontier question by stating his readiness to agree to it upon two conditions.

The proposal was that the arbitration should be undertaken upon the invitation of Turkey and Greece; but he had thought it necessary to require that the two parties shall, in addition, solemnly engage to abide by the decision to be come to, and also that it shall be distinctly understood that if the arbitration comes to nothing, or if either party should break its engagement to submit to the Award, the Austro-Hungarian Government shall not be expected to take any step to enforce it, on account of the affront which would thus be offered to Europe.

His Excellency said that he had further intimated unofficially to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that he had the greatest confidence in his prudence and discretion, and had entreated him to proceed with the utmost care in elaborating the details of the measure, so as to provide, as far as possible, for all contingencies, before the proposal is formally laid before the different Governments for their acceptance.

There being no danger of an actual conflict between Greece and Turkey as long as the winter continues, nothing would be lost by giving the proposition ample and mature consideration in all its bearings, and it would, he thought, perhaps be brought forward with the greatest effect when the prospect of a collision appeared to be becoming imminent.

Baron Haymerle is of opinion that the Greek Government would be brought to apply for the arbitration, and that they would be content to receive in that manner and without a war a smaller extent of territory than that which they would otherwise have to try to take by force, if they understand that they will be left to bear all the consequences of making such an attempt.

He did not appear to despair of obtaining the assent of the Turkish Government to the course proposed, if they have reasonable ground for believing that the Award would materially modify in their favour the frontier of the Berlin Conference, and that by agreeing beforehand to abide by it, they were not accepting what they had already declared their determination to refuse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 243.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

E
(No. 810.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 22, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Haymerle the substance of your Lordship's despatches No. 762 and 795 of the 22nd ultimo and 10th December on the subject of the Bulgarian fortresses, and requested his Excellency to inform me of the course which he thought it would be desirable to follow upon the question of their demolition.

In a conversation which I had with him to-day, his Excellency told me that Prince Alexander had expressed to Count Khevenhüller, as he had done to Mr. Lascelles, the wish that a Commission of European officers should examine the state of the fortresses, and he thought that it would be advisable to adopt the proposal, to which, however, he must attach the condition that the Commission should confine itself to reporting whether the works had or had not been demolished according to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

His reason for making this condition was to prevent the Commissioners from entering into the consideration of the question of the greater or less importance of the fortresses. It was very possible that some of them were not of such strength as to be entitled to much respect in the eyes of European officers; but, whatever they may have been at the time of the Turkish occupation of the country, they ought now to be demolished, and, if it should be ascertained by a Commission that this has not been done, the concert of Europe would be advantageously exhibited by the Bulgarian Government being called upon to fulfil its obligations.

With regard to your Lordship's request, to be informed what representations the Austro-Hungarian Government have recently made to the Principality on the subject, Baron Haymerle said that they had been continually and incessantly repeated, but the Government of Bulgaria did not think it necessary even to show the courtesy usual among civilized countries, and the insolence of General Ehrnrooth's answer was an example of the way in which the representations of individual foreign agents were received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 244.

Sir E. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 117. Commercial. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 23, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Lascelles' despatch No. 183, which will reach your Lordship by the present messenger, reporting the deceit practised by M. Zancoff upon the Austrian Agent about his instructions to the Bulgarian Delegate to the Danube Commission, I have the honour to inform you that Baron Haymerle gives Prince Alexander full credit for the indignation he has expressed at such a discreditable proceeding.

His Excellency tells me that M. Zancoff did not confine himself to stating to Count Khevenhüller the nature of the instructions he was sending, but showed him what professed to be a copy of them, while, in point of fact, he was writing in a precisely contrary sense.

Baron Haymerle takes a very desponding view of the prospects of the Principality, and says that, as the new Ministers are by all accounts even worse than their predecessors, there is no ground for expecting an improvement.

Count Khevenhüller writes that the accounts of the public revenues published by the Government are ascertained to be purely fictitious, the receipts having been given at a very much lower sum than that to which they really amount, with a view of enabling the Government to evade their obligations on the plea of want of money.

As the tribute to the Sultan, for the settlement of which the Turkish Government have now applied, has to be fixed upon a calculation of the revenues of the Principality, the temptation to understate its amount was not likely to be resisted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 245.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 26, 1880.

MY telegram of this morning.

I have seen Governor-General. His Excellency informed me that, not wishing to interrupt the present peaceful march of events in the province, he had agreed to approve the Budget. The vote of the Assembly had, however, so disheartened him that he had made up his mind to resign. He had consequently telegraphed to this effect to the Sultan. The members of the Assembly had, it is true, now expressed deep regret at what had happened, begging him to revoke his decision. He had, however, replied that he must now await reply from the Sultan. I strongly urged his Excellency to reconsider his decision.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 246.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 26, 1880.

MY telegrams Nos. 97 and 98 of to-day.

At the further urgent request of a deputation from the members of the Assembly, who have assured Aleko Pasha that he possesses full confidence of the population, and tacit understanding that votes complained of will be remedied by Permanent Committee, his Excellency has consented to withdraw his resignation, and remain.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 247.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 5:30 P.M.)

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December* 27, 1880, 1 P.M.

FRENCH arbitration proposal not yet made by French Ambassador. I have grounds for believing that it will be met by a counter-proposal from Turkey [? to] submit Greek frontier question to a Conference composed of the Six Great Powers, Turkey, and Greece, with condition that decision shall be unanimously agreed upon. The Turks would never accept a decision by majority.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 248.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27, 7:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 27, 1880, 4 P.M.

ITALIAN Minister has received instructions to act in accordance with me in matter of arbitration.

No. 249.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1880.

I HAVE read with interest your despatch No. 369, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, describing the improved political condition of Eastern Roumelia, and I approve the advice which you have given to the Bulgarian authorities, as well as to the Greeks and Turks with whom you have come in contact, with a view to the establishment of confidence and harmony between the different races.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 250.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the question of the Servian Agrarian Law, respecting which Musurus Bey made an inquiry at this Office on the 17th instant, is receiving the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

They have not, however, hitherto been consulted by the Servian Government upon the subject.

I beg to return herewith the original despatch from your Government, which Musurus Bey was good enough to leave with me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 251.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

E
My Lord, 9, *St. Leonard's Road, Surbiton, December* 23, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Blunt's despatch No. 145 of the 24th ultimo to your Lordship on the subject of the memorial to the Sultan from a number of Albanian Chiefs, I venture to explain to your Lordship that the fact that Djemal Bey was the person selected to be the bearer of the document in question is sufficient to cast considerable doubt on the *bona fides* of the whole proceeding.

Ilias Pasha, the father of Djemal Bey, is a native of low extraction from the district of Dibra, where feudalism and family institutions are still in full force. He has attained the rank of Pasha through his connection with the military head-quarters at Monastir as a meat contractor for the supply of the troops, and the influence he may possess in Dibra is entirely dependent on the continuance of his financial operations with the Ottoman authorities, and as an intermediary between them and the Dibriote nobles, who would never tolerate his interference on other conditions in their local arrangements.

Djemal Bey was Aide-de-camp in 1860 to Ahmed Pasha, the Governor-General at Damascus, who was publicly executed for his share in the Syrian massacres, and the Aide-de-camp only escaped a similar fate by disappearing and taking refuge in his native district.

When war broke out in 1876 between Turkey and Montenegro Ilias Pasha and his son, Djemal Bey, arrived at Scutari at the head of a contingent of 3,000 Dibriotes, which they had raised on the understanding that 300 piastres should be paid for each man mustered at Podgoritza. As soon as the roll-call was accomplished and the stipulated money paid, the contingent dissolved, leaving, it is said, Ilias Pasha and the Turkish General in command to divide between them a considerable part of the military subsidy thus obtained.

Ilias Pasha then returned to Monastir, but left his son at Scutari to occupy the influential and lucrative position of Secret Government Agent between the natives and Ottoman authorities.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to trace much further the doings of these two Albanians, who are now suddenly so prominently connected with the alleged desire of their fellow-countrymen to be brought together under the control of a single Governor-General; but I may add, as a further proof that they have hitherto always been employed by the Porte for its secret ends in Albania, that their names were closely connected with the transactions which ended in the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and foremost in all the meetings of the Albanian League as long as it remained under Ottoman control.

I am very much disposed, therefore, to believe that the Porte is still employing Djemal Bey, and that the presentation of the memorial asking for the immediate union of all the different Albanian provinces is merely a plan of the Constantinople Pashas to prevent the Albanians from attaining the cohesion and strength which they are justified in aspiring to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 252.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *9, St. Leonard's Road, Surbiton, December 24, 1880.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 781 of the 3rd instant to your Lordship, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency is quite right in surmising that my remarks only applied to the feeling shown by the Austrian Minister resident at Cettinjé on the subject of the acquisition of a new armament by Montenegro.

I am, however, now very much surprised to find that Baron Haymerle had informed Sir Henry Elliot as early as in October last about these arms, whilst the Austrian Representative in Montenegro should, as late as a few weeks ago, have been attempting, by many curious subterfuges, to mislead me as to the real nature of the understanding arrived at between his Government and Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 253.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

My Lord, *9, St. Leonard's Road, Surbiton, December 24, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH I agree with Captain Sale (*vide* his despatch to your Lordship No. 37 of the 10th instant) that the Montenegrins might very well have given the Turks a receipt for the town and district of Dulcigno, still it cannot for a moment be admitted that the Turks can parcel off the territory to the west of Lake Scutari ceded to Montenegro into different lots to be surrendered on separate dates and occasions.

The term "Dulcigno district" was merely adopted as a convenient way of defining the territory to be given up by the Dulcigno arrangement; and that this was so intended and understood by both Turks and Montenegrins is evident from the clause in the Convention of the 25th November, 1880, which stipulates that "les troupes Impériales se retireront vers Scutari pour se mettre dans la même journée derrière la ligne-frontière acceptée par les Puissances."

I cannot quite understand the doubts expressed in the last paragraph of Captain Sale's despatch, but as the Turks are only too likely to avail themselves of all possible misconceptions concerning the extent and final nature of their concessions comprised under the Dulcigno arrangement, I am more than ever of opinion that the demarcation of the boundary to the west of Lake Scutari should be carried out without further delay.

An early date should be fixed for the Commissioners to meet at Ragusa or Scutari, and if by that time some of them should fail to appear, the Commissioners present should be empowered to carry out the work without them.

There are no international interests involved in this direction which can prevent the adoption of the foregoing suggestion, and I am sure Captain Sale will, as usual, be one of the first on the spot to proceed with the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 254.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December 27, 1880.*

SULTAN has telegraphed to Governor-General that he is unwilling to accept his Excellency's resignation, but authorizes him to go to Constantinople to explain matters. Aleko Pasha has replied that, the members of the Assembly having expressed regret at what had taken place and made satisfactory excuses, he begs to withdraw his resignation, adding that unless he receives further instructions he will abstain for the present from availing himself of His Majesty's permission to go to Constantinople.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 255.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 72. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 71 of yesterday, Russian Minister has received instructions to support French arbitration proposal. Before doing so he has consulted me as anxious to act with me; I told him I had no instructions on the subject. He is indisposed to carry out his instructions, as he considers to recommence arbitration is inconsistent with recommendations of Berlin Conference.

No. 256.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 396.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 28, 1880, 11 A.M.*

FRENCH Ambassador's continued silence and seclusion much commented on by all colleagues, including German.

I met former Minister at Porte after long interview he had had with Prime Minister. Tissot's only remark to me was that Turkish Ministers had deliberated at Palace five days and nights without coming to any decision.

No. 257.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 28, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 59 of the 26th.

I leave it to you to use your own discretion as to which definition of frontier between the lake and the sea it may be most advisable to follow.

No. 258.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

E. MS.
(No. 168. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 28, 1880.*

ON the 24th instant the Greek Minister called at the Foreign Office and stated that information, on which, considering its source, he had reason to rely, led him to believe that, at a recent interview at Friedrichsruhe between Prince Bismarck and the French Ambassador, it had been suggested that the success of the proposal for arbitration on the Greek frontier question might be insured by a previous understanding amongst the Powers that the award should assign Larissa to Greece, and leave Janina and Mezzovo to Turkey.

To such a sacrifice M. Contostavlos said Greece would never consent. She would prefer to perish sooner than agree to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 259.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 159. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, December 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to the subject of my despatch No. 152 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter which I have received from my correspondent in the district of Cassandra, furnishing me

with the result of the inquiries I requested him to make into the condition and circumstances of the Bulgarian families who have been deported from Kiuprulu to Polygeros in that district.

I availed myself of a visit which Hassan Tahsin Pasha, together with Attif Pasha, the Military Commandant of Salonica, made me this afternoon, to acquaint them with the substance of that letter. I told them that the sufferings and distress of these deported women and children excite the sympathy of all classes here; and that very disparaging comments are made upon the conduct of the authorities in the matter.

I also begged them strongly to reconsider the case of the sufferers, many of whom, from all I had heard, were innocent, and not implicated in any way in the crimes attributed to their absent relatives.

Both Pashas assured me that they would make further inquiries into the circumstances attending the expulsion of these families, and promised to send back to their homes any among them who may be found not to be directly connected with individuals who are known to be engaged in brigandage or seditious proceedings against the Government.

They, however, remarked to me that intimidation and lawlessness have very much decreased in the district of Kiuprulu since the enforcement of the measure in question; that no agrarian outrages have occurred in that district within the last four or five weeks; and that the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants of Kiuprulu have addressed an "arz-mazhar" (memorial) to the authorities endorsing that measure, and praying that the expelled families should not be allowed to return to their homes!

M. Scriabini, the Acting Russian Consul-General at this place, has also exercised his good offices in behalf of these Bulgarians, but although his action is encouraged and supported by the Russian Embassy, he does not appear to be at all satisfied with the result of his intervention in the matter.

I should add that three of the Bulgarians have died since their removal from Kiuprulu, viz., two men, aged 50 and 70 respectively, and one girl of 10 years.

In connection with the above subject, I have also the honour to report that several Greek families, composed of twenty-three men, twenty-one women, and twenty-seven children, who were expelled from the district of Caraferia (Veria) by Abédine Pasha when his Excellency went there in May last to direct special police measures against the brigands who carried off the cousin of Savas Pasha, have been lately allowed to come here from Serres, to which place they had been removed, and I have some hope that the military authorities will let them return to their homes.

This result has been obtained mainly through the urgent appeals of the Greek Archbishop, whose endeavours in the matter I have supported in an unofficial and friendly manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Letter addressed to Consul-General Blunt from Cassandra.

Sir, *Cassandra District, December* 11, 1880.

IN accordance with your request, I have ascertained the following particulars with regard to the Bulgarians of Kiuprulu who have been deported to Polygeros.

Some six years ago three of the inhabitants of Kiuprulu left their native place, and, since then, have not been heard of, either by their relations or by the authorities. Brigands having made their appearance in the vicinity of Kiuprulu some three or four months ago, and the authorities failing to capture them, they hit upon the lucky expedient of declaring that they must be the three individuals who left their village six years ago. Thereupon the relatives of these three absentees were called upon to find them and deliver them up to the authorities, as it was alleged that the supposed brigands were being supplied with provisions by these relatives.

Fifteen days were allowed for the delivery of the brigands; failing this, every relative was to be deported.

Notwithstanding the protestations of all those concerned, no credence was given to them, and twelve heads of families were summarily seized on the eighteenth day and sent by rail to Salonica, and thence to Polygeros. In all, there are 40 souls—12 men, 12 women, and 16 children.

These people were not allowed even to close their shops in Kiuprulu. They have come without clothes of any kind, and are utterly destitute. Most of them were in comfortable circumstances at Kiuprulu. The authorities of Polygeros have given these Bulgarians a house to live in, but nothing else; they are not allowed to leave Polygeros, but are obliged to remain in the town. They have no means of subsistence, but are obliged to go out on the hills to cut wood, which they bring in on their shoulders, and sell for 50 paras.

From all accounts, they seem quiet, worthy people, only too willing to work and earn their bread.

The above narrative was taken from one of the twelve Bulgarians, and, later on, I had it corroborated from a Greek source.

The condition of these twelve families is truly pitiable, and they are worthy objects of charity, especially as they suffer greatly during this cold weather.

A count of all the number of these Bulgarians is taken every night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ———.

No. 260.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 160. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres relative to the decrease of brigandage and to military preparations in that sandjak.

I am glad to be able to report to your Lordship that the state of public security has also improved in the Sandjak of Drama, and that in the Sandjak of Salonica comparatively few acts of brigandage and lawlessness have been perpetrated within the last four weeks. Only two hostages have been carried off by brigands in the district of Catterina.

In the Vilayet of Monastir, however, no great improvement has taken place in the situation, and in that of Cossova, especially in the districts of Useup, Malesh, and Kotchana, and in the vicinity of the Bulgarian frontier, very serious disorders are daily occurring.

Not very long ago two young Bulgarian girls were brutally outraged and murdered by two Albanians in the vicinity of the railway station of Useup. The murderers are well known, but the authorities have not moved against them.

About a fortnight ago three Turkish refugees named Arabadji, Shukri, and Abdullah, with his aged mother, were ruthlessly murdered by a band of Bulgarian robbers on the road leading from Kustendil to Palanga. About the same time, another band of these robbers attacked and killed five custom-house guards (four Turks and one Christian).

These murders were committed in the district of Kotchana, and not far from the border.

Last week three Bulgarian robbers named Spasso, Christo, and Andon, in attempting to plunder and carry off hostages from Mostitza, a Bulgarian village in Kotchana, were successfully resisted by the villagers (all Bulgarian). Two of the robbers were killed; the third was wounded, but escaped.

It is said, and generally believed, that this state of brigandage in the border districts is fostered and sustained by the Pan-Schave Committee at Kustendil; but be this as it may, there is no doubt that the brigands cross and recross the border with growing impunity, notwithstanding the cordon of troops which Osman Pasha, the Vali of Cossova, has established in those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Letter from Mr. Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

December 13, 1880.

(Extract.)

BRIGANDAGE is decidedly on the wane. Kukos, the Bulgarian bandit Chief whom I mentioned in last year's correspondence, has been captured and is in prison here. It seems last spring he had a skirmish with a detachment of Turkish soldiers, in which he received a wound rendering him a cripple for life.

All the Serres Haus are full of soldiers. There is a great movement of troops, some coming, others departing; also a great deal of recruiting and drilling. But what the destination and disposal of these troops may be is unknown to us civilians.

No. 261.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 161. Political.)

Salonica, December 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Report No. 154 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter which I have received from a trustworthy source at Uscup furnishing an interesting account of the recent occurrences at that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Letter from Uscup, dated December 16, 1880.

LE pays est dans une anarchie complète. La ville tout entière ainsi que tous les villages environnants sont au pouvoir de la Ligue Albanaise.

Ce mouvement, qui n'est qu'une conséquence de ce qui se passe à Scutari, à Prisrend, Debre, et autres villes de la Haute-Albanie, a éclaté à Uscup après la réception d'ordres venus de Constantinople appelant sous les armés les conscrits de l'année courante.

La population, qui a déjà dû faire d'énormes sacrifices durant la guerre Serbe, et à la tête de laquelle s'est mis un certain Yachar Bey, s'est opposée à l'exécution de cette mesure.

Yachar Bey est un ancien créancier de l'État; il a donc tout intérêt à maintenir la population dans cette voie dangereuse, car il échappe pour le moment aux mesures sévères prescrites contre les créanciers du Gouvernement.

Voici le passage d'un discours tenu par ce Chef rebelle:—

"A quoi bon tant de sacrifices; nous perdons quand même nos belles provinces. Refusez de donner vos fils, dont la perte est inévitable. Restez chez vous pour défendre vos foyers."

L'autorité de la Porte est mise à néant, comme vous allez voir par l'incident suivant:—

Le Mutessarif Kemali Effendi, soupçonné d'être de connivence avec les Albanais, a été destitué et un ex-Mutessarif, Raïf Effendi, nommé à sa place.

Raïf Effendi est arrivé à Uscup le 4 courant; à la station du chemin de fer une députation de la Ligue lui signifiait l'ordre de ne pas entrer dans la ville, dont le pont, du reste, était tenu par plus de 500 Albanais armés.

Ne pouvant devant une telle démonstration prendre possession de son poste, Raïf Effendi a continué sa route pour Pristina, le chef-lieu du Vilayet de Cossova, afin de se concerter avec Osman Pacha, le Vali, mais, ou que celui-ci n'a pas cru à propos d'employer la force, ou qu'il avait des ordres pour ne pas le faire, le fait est que Raïf Effendi est revenu à Uscup et a tenté une seconde fois de prendre possession de son poste; même opposition de la part des Albanais.

Raïf Effendi a été obligé de rester deux jours à l'hotel près de la station du chemin de fer, d'où il est parti pour Salonique avant-hier.

En attendant, le Mutessarif Kemali Effendi, nommé à un poste en Syrie, a voulu à deux reprises partir, mais la Ligue s'est opposée à ce départ.

Tout cet incident ayant été télégraphié à la Sublime Porte, cette dernière s'est décidée de nommer un autre Mutessarif à la place de Raïf Effendi.

Les membres de la Ligue ont voulus connaître le nom du nouveau titulaire et ont télégraphié à cet effet à Constantinople, mais aucune réponse n'a été donnée à cette demande.

Je viens d'apprendre que les habitants, ne voulant pas pousser trop loin leur opposition, ont décidé de reconnaître le nouveau Mutessarif, c'est-à-dire celui nommé à la place de Raïf Effendi.

La nomination de Raïf Effendi a certainement été un faux pas fait par la Porte, qui aurait dû se rappeler que Raïf Effendi fut destitué à la suite de certaines graves accusations portées contre lui par la population elle-même; pourquoi alors le nommer une seconde fois? La Porte aurait dû dans les circonstances actuelles montrer plus de sagesse et ne pas s'exposer à un pareil échec.

Tous nos Tribunaux sont fermés, et les fonctionnaires étrangers (c'est-à-dire Turcs) de cette Administration sont renvoyés!

Par la volonté du peuple, le Cadi reste le seul Juge; dans toutes les affaires de justice il devra juger d'après le "Shéri" ou le "Nizam," selon le cas, c'est-à-dire comme cela se faisait dans le temps. Les Albanais prétendent qu'il y aura moins d'abus.

Comme conséquence inévitable d'une telle désorganisation la sécurité personnelle laisse beaucoup à désirer, et l'assassinat est à l'ordre du jour.

La Porte devrait songer à prendre des mesures énergiques contre un mouvement qui s'accentue de jour en jour, et qui pourrait bientôt coûter à la Turquie les plus belles des provinces qui lui restent en Europe.

Les Albanais ici s'occupent beaucoup de politique. Cela vous intéressera de savoir qu'ils attribuent à l'Angleterre tous leurs malheurs. Aussi l'influence de l'Angleterre—influence qui mettait à tout moment à sa disposition 200,000 hommes, est perdue, et a fait place à une haine implacable.

No. 262.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 163. Political.)

Salonica, December 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 1st November last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Mutessarif and Military Pasha of Serres left that place on the 6th instant for the district of Nevrocop, for the purpose, it is said, of transferring to the authorities of Eastern Roumelia certain localities which, according to the established line of demarcation, have been left to that Principality.

My Austro-Hungarian colleague, M. de Moutlong, has received similar information from his Vice-Consul at Serres.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 263.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 576. Extender.)

Rome, December 22, 1880.

My Lord,

MY French colleague, who called on me yesterday afternoon, informed me that he had in the morning received a telegram from his Government desiring him to ascertain whether the Italian Government would be disposed to entertain favourably a proposal that the Greek frontier question should be decided by the arbitration of the Six Great Powers, the consent of Greece and Turkey to abide by this arbitration having been previously obtained, and that Count Maffei, of whom he had made the inquiry, communicating to him at the same time a copy of the telegram, had at once stated that the Italian Government would be perfectly ready to agree to such a proposal, which would be entirely in accordance with their own views as to a possible solution of the difficulty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 264.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

E
(No. 579.)
Rome, December 24, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs yesterday, I saw M. Malvano, the Head of the Political Department, who showed me a copy of the telegram asking whether the Italian Government would be ready to accept a proposal for settling the Greek frontier question by the arbitration of the Six Great Powers, on the condition of the consent of the Greek and Turkish Governments being previously obtained, which had been communicated on the 22nd instant by the French Ambassador, and the instruction which had in consequence been sent to the Italian Ambassadors to the Courts of the Great Powers, recapitulating the substance of the French proposal, and stating that the readiness of the Italian Government to accept this proposal had at once been made known to the Marquis de Noailles.

M. Malvano showed me also a copy of a further telegram which had been sent to the Italian Ambassador in London only, in which General Menabrea was directed to explain to your Lordship that the Italian Government, although they would have wished to have conferred beforehand with Her Majesty's Government, being called upon to give an immediate answer upon the French proposal, had the less hesitation in accepting it, not only because in their own opinion such a mode of proceeding, if previously assented to by the two Powers immediately interested, offered a fair prospect of a settlement, but also because they had grounds for believing that it likewise recommended itself to Her Majesty's Government, with whom, in regard to all details and subsequent arrangements, &c., should the arbitration be accepted by all the Powers and be carried into effect, the Italian Government, General Menabrea was to inform your Lordship, was most anxious to act in complete accord.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 265.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 583. Extender.)
Rome, December 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND from M. Malvano that the French Ambassador having, in accordance with the instructions from his Government, informed the Italian Government that the French Representatives at Athens and Constantinople have been instructed to urge the Greek and Turkish Governments to address a request to the Great Powers to settle the frontier question by arbitration, and having expressed a desire on the part of the French Government that the Italian Government should direct their Representatives in those capitals to give the same advice, M. Cairoli has instructed them to support the representations of the French Agents on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 266.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 584.)
Rome, December 24, 1880.

My Lord,

M. MALVANO mentioned to me in an interview I had with him the day before yesterday that, owing to the absence of some of the other Montenegrin Delimitation Commissioners, and Colonel Ottolenghi having special private reasons for wishing to return to Rome at this time, leave of absence had been granted to him to do so.

I understood that the Italian Consul-General was furnished with instructions, and could act on the affairs of the Commission in the place of Colonel Ottolenghi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 267.

M. Challemel Lacour to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

Ambassade de France en Angleterre, Londres, le 24 Décembre, 1880.

M. le Comte,

LE Contre-Amiral Lafont s'est empressé de faire connaître au Ministre de la Marine les excellents rapports qu'il a entretenus avec le Vice-Amiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour. Il s'est loué très-vivement de la courtoisie parfaite, de la bienveillance et de l'affabilité que cet officier supérieur n'a pas cessé de lui témoigner; aussi est-ce principalement aux qualités personelles du Commandant-en-chef que nous nous plaisons à attribuer l'entente cordiale qui a existé dans toute la flotte.

En conséquence, je suis chargé par M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire de prier votre Excellence de faire parvenir au Vice-Amiral Beauchamp Seymour les remerciements du Gouvernement de la République pour les bons procédés dont il a usé envers le Commandant ainsi que les officiers de notre division.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. CHALLEMEL LACOUR.

No. 268.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29, 5 P.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)
Athens, December 29, 1880, 12·45 P.M.

GERMAN Minister has been instructed to support, in a general and unofficial manner, French proposal of arbitration. He has done so, and has received same answer as was given to French Minister.

No. 269.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 30.)

E
(No. 587. Confidential.)
Berlin, December 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM confidentially informed that Count Hatzfeldt does not expect that the Sultan will consent to the settlement of the Greek frontier question by arbitration, although His Majesty may not at first refuse to take the proposal into consideration for the sake of gaining time.

Count Hatzfeldt is, however, of opinion that the coming negotiations may serve to persuade the Sultan to make a larger concession to Greece than that laid down in the note of the 3rd October, and his Excellency thinks that Greece would do well to accept any concession Turkey may be induced to make at present, while mentally reserving her future claims to the line of frontier recommended by the Berlin Conference.

Count Hatzfeldt states that M. Tissot agrees with him on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 270.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 30.)

E
(No. 1196.)
Paris, December 29, 1880.

My Lord,

M. BARTHÉLEMY ST. HILAIRE told me this afternoon that he had prepared, for communication to the Greek Government, a despatch, expressing in the most distinct manner his sense of the imprudence of their conduct. He should, he said, point out that, to carry into effect the scheme of endeavouring to take possession by force of the territory to which Greece laid claim in virtue of the Conference of Berlin, would involve her in the gravest perils; and he should argue that it would constitute an act of ingratitude towards Europe. He intended, I think he said, to add that the only wise

course for Greece would be to ask for the arbitration of the Powers, and to engage to be bound absolutely by their award.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me that he should send the despatch off the day after to-morrow.

He promised to send me a copy of it as soon as it was gone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 271.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 30, 11 A.M.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December* 30, 1880, 8·45 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 51 of the 24th instant, French Commissioner has stopped at Trieste, and is not at present coming on.

Italian Commissioner, after waiting a fortnight for him, has gone to Rome, and is not returning.

Might the movements of the French Commissioner be hastened? He has already kept us waiting a whole month here.

No. 272.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 30, 1 P.M.)

(No. 399.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 30, 1880, 9·30 A.M.

I LEARN that French Ambassador made formal proposal on the 29th instant about arbitration to Prime Minister, who asked for time to reflect, and who referred French Ambassador to Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose reply was evasive.

No. 273.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 805.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1880.

I WAS informed by Count Münster, confidentially, on the 20th instant, that the reply of the German Government to the French proposal of arbitration on the Greek question was to the effect that Germany was not indisposed to agree to it on the following conditions:—1, That the decision should be that of at least four to two of the Great Powers; 2, that the Powers should agree beforehand as to the manner in which the decision should be enforced if Turkey or Greece should decline to execute the Award.

On the 22nd his Excellency explained that the above conditions had been those laid down in the first reply to the French Government, but that he had since been informed that the Imperial Government, having been strongly pressed by the French Government to waive the second condition, had agreed to alter their reply so as to make their assent conditional on the understanding—1, that Greece and Turkey should bind themselves to carry out the Award; 2, that, if either Power should fail to do this, Germany would take no part in any measures of coercion.

Your Excellency will see that neither version of the conditions agrees with that given to your Excellency by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, and reported in your despatch No. 581 of the 20th instant. The description of the reply given to Lord Lyons by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, as reported in his Excellency's despatch No. 1178 of the 22nd instant, of which a copy is inclosed, was that Germany had accompanied her acceptance with a declaration that she was not in any way to be led on towards the adoption of coercive measures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 274.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

E
(No. 1619. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1880.

THE French Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the substance of a telegram from his Government, stating that the French Minister at Athens had been informed by Mr. Corbett that the English Government had agreed to the proposal of European arbitration between Turkey and Greece, but that Mr. Corbett had no instructions to recommend the plan to the Greek Government.

M. Challemel-Lacour was instructed to state the value which the French Government attached to the active support of England in the matter. They considered that all Europe was greatly concerned in it, and that it was highly important that it should be known both at Athens and Constantinople that the Powers were unanimous in desiring the success of the arbitration which they had accepted in principle as far as they were concerned, and which constituted now the only practical means of securing peace. The French Government believed that the advice of the British Representatives might exercise a most salutary influence on the two parties from whom the request for arbitration ought to come; and M. Challemel-Lacour said he was desired to use his best efforts to obtain the necessary instructions to Mr. Corbett and Mr. St. John to support the representations of M. de Moüy and M. Tissot.

I told his Excellency, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to co-operate with that of France in the work they had undertaken. Up to this time I had given no instructions to our Representatives at Constantinople, as, before doing so, I should be glad to know what were the instructions given by the French Government to their own Representatives, what were the arguments which these latter were desired to use, and whether the communications had been official or semi-official.

M. Challemel-Lacour said that he would ask for this information, though it was easy to imagine what the character of the arguments must be.

I added, that in one of the principal Paris journals—the "Temps"—a singular explanation had been given of the motives of the French Government in making the present proposal.

M. Challemel-Lacour said that he had on a former occasion explained to me that the articles in the "Temps" were not in accord with the policy of the French Government; that they were neither official nor even semi-official. He had read the article in question with some surprise, as he believed others had done. It certainly did not represent the opinions of M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire.

I said that these assurances gave me pleasure; that Her Majesty's Government would certainly not think it right that Greece should be placed, by this proposition being made to her, in a worse position than she had previously held. I should not, I said, make any intimation of this kind to the Greek Government, but I was desirous that the French Government should know that this was our opinion.

M. Challemel-Lacour observed that he thought that Greece would do herself harm by resisting the advice of all Europe, especially of those Powers who were most friendly to her, but that his personal opinion was that there was not any question of abandoning her.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 275.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 31.)

E
(No. 372. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 15, 1880.

ON calling at the konak on Saturday, the 5th instant, the Governor-General informed me that he had just received a visit from the Russian Consul-General. His Excellency, who appeared somewhat agitated, proceeded to tell me that Prince Tzeretelew had categorically demanded the immediate signature of contracts for a term of three years for the forty Russian officers now serving in the militia. He had replied that it was impossible to retain so many, seeing that Article 12, Chapter XII of the Annex of the Organic Statute, laid down that the number of foreign officers should not exceed one-fifth of the total number of officers actually serving in the militia. Prince Tzeretelew

had then observed that this was an Article which might well be disregarded, a perfect understanding now prevailing between Russia and the other Powers with regard to the presence of Russians in the provincial militia. Prince Tzeretelew had added that it was in the interest of the province that an efficient militia similar to that created by Prince Alexander in Bulgaria should forthwith be formed, and that the gratitude which the province owed to Russia should induce his Excellency to follow the advice which the Russian Government gave. That he had pointed out to Prince Tzeretelew, in reply, that Prince Alexander was, in a great measure, free to do what he liked. He (Aleko Pasha) on the contrary, was responsible for his actions to the Sultan and the Powers. For his part, he doubted that the Powers were willing to allow so important a provision of the Statute to be set aside; only twenty of the forty Russian officers could therefore be retained.

Prince Tzeretelew had thereupon informed him that unless his Excellency consented to sign the contracts before the following Tuesday he would advise the Russian officers to resign, and hold his Excellency responsible for the consequences that might result.

I told Aleko Pasha that I had received no information tending to show that Her Majesty's Government would view with indifference the non-fulfilment of the provisions of the Organic Statute. I said that Her Majesty's Government, on the contrary, were anxious to see the Statute loyally executed, adding, before I left, with a view of reassuring his Excellency, who seemed alarmed, that it appeared to me very improbable that Prince Tzeretelew would push matters to a crisis. "In any case," replied his Excellency, "I shall not give way."

Further inquiries strengthening my belief that Prince Tzeretelew had no intention of carrying out his threat, I thought it unnecessary to report the incident until a solution of the difficulty had been arrived at. I am happy to say that Aleko Pasha's Private Secretary now informed me that Prince Tzeretelew called at the konak on the following Friday, the 11th, and after a lengthy discussion, concluded by promising to do his best to carry out his Excellency's wishes.

It is probable that several Russian officers will leave shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 276.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 373.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 18, 1880.

I THINK it right to report to your Lordship the very painful impression which has been produced here by the accounts received from Macedonia of the severe measures and ill-treatment to which the Bulgarians of that vilayet are said to have been recently subjected at the hands of the Turkish authorities.

Should similar reports continue to arrive, I fear advantage may be taken of the known sympathies of the Bulgarians for their co-religionists in Macedonia to stir up an agitation in Eastern Roumelia in behalf of the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 277.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 374. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Brophy, giving an account of the improved condition of the Mussulman population in the Bourgas district, and inclosing a list of the quantity of grain remaining to be paid to Turks who have not yet returned to that canton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 277.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Stephen.

Dear Mr. Stephen, *Bourgas, December* 10, 1880.

YOUR letter of the 25th November reached me yesterday only.

With regard to the Üdjret question, the Bailli has promised me a sort of synopsis of the work lately done by the Commission *ad hoc*, and the Prefect assures me that all the rent in kind due to the Turks for this year has been integrally paid, while that which may be claimed by Mussulmans who have not yet returned to their homes has been collected and is ready to be given them. The synopsis I hope to be able to send with this note by Sunday's post; it will be, of course, to a certain extent an *ex parte* statement, but it would be impossible to verify it thoroughly without visiting every individual village of returned Turkish emigrants. As, however, I should have been sure to have heard complaints, if complaints were numerous, I am inclined to believe that the authorities have at last decided to act fairly and honestly (or at the least fairly honestly) towards the Mussulmans.

I am very glad to be able to repeat that the Turks of the Balkan continue to be well treated by their Christian neighbours. Yesterday a dozen of my tenants of Kizildjik (Aïdos), who brought in the tithes of their village, called on me and expressed their gratification and astonishment at the altered state of affairs, as well as their gratitude to me for having dissuaded the Aïdos Achialo Balkan from emigrating at the end of the war during the Russian advance.

If the province continues to make progress in the road it has so lately entered on—and which is diametrically opposite to that which it followed three months ago—but few persons will have any ground for serious complaint, and the Bulgarians will have shown a capacity for self-government which even their best friends would have doubted last year.

I cannot learn that any new appointments of Turks to official posts have yet been made, though I am told that two Mussulman members are to be appointed on the Council of the Municipality.

Except out of regard to the formal provisions of the Organic Statute, it would matter little to the Turks whether the governing class were Christian or Mussulman; so long as a good police exists, the persecution they have suffered from ceases, and they are left to till their fields in peace. The class of Turkish employés of former days, which was bad at the best, has almost entirely disappeared, and the Turks remaining are almost exclusively agriculturists, amongst whom the *sacra fames* for administrative posts, which so distinguishes every Bulgarian or Greek who can read and write, hardly exists. The Greeks of Achialo have certainly been curtailed of their fair share of the official loaves and fishes, and I think some justice is due to their reclamations. Sozopolis is left very much to govern itself, and gets on fairly well, as there is no Slavonic element in the town for the Greeks to contend with.

The Tribunals here leave much to be desired, but with the very poor material available—half-educated Bulgarians who can know nothing either of jurisprudence or the commonest law of evidence; although they may be capable enough of making a hard bargain in wool or cloth: this is not to be wondered at. However, if these Courts improve as the condition of the country, as regards crime, has lately improved, I shall be ready to make every allowance for inevitable shortcomings. I have just received the accompanying paper, but it is merely a list of the quantity of grain remaining in this canton to be paid to Turks who have not yet returned. I regret that the promised synopsis has degenerated into these scanty details, even though the Prefect has renewed his assurance that no fair claims now remain unpaid.

I will have inquiries made as far as possible, but I still believe that a good deal has really been done in the way of paying off the rent due.

M. Zancoff, the new Prefect, appears to do his best.

(Signed) C. BROPHY.

No. 278.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 685.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 650 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Sublime Porte, stating that the Ottoman

Commissioner for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier between the sea and the Lake of Scutari has been directed to join the Commissioners of the Powers in order to proceed with the delimitation, and that Dervish Pasha has been instructed to take the necessary measures for the protection of the Commission.

I have already had the honour of telegraphing the substance of this note to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 18 *Décembre,* 1880.

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de l'Empire Ottoman a eu l'honneur de recevoir la communication du 6 de ce mois par laquelle leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin expriment à la Sublime Porte le désir qu'il soit procédé sans délai à la délimitation de la frontière Monténégrine entre la Mer Adriatique et le Lac de Scutari, et que la sécurité des Commissaires qui auront à exécuter les travaux relatifs à cette délimitation soit garantie.

Assim Pacha a l'honneur d'informer leurs Excellences que le Ministère de la Guerre a été invité à autoriser le Commissaire Ottoman pour la délimitation de la frontière Monténégrine à se joindre à ceux des Puissances et de la Principauté pour procéder à la susdite délimitation; que son Excellence Dervich Pacha a reçu de son côté les instructions nécessaires pour prendre au besoin des dispositions propres à assurer la sécurité des Commissaires dans l'exécution des travaux concernant la même délimitation.

No. 279.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 691.)
Constantinople, December 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED to-day the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica. Although the despatch to which it refers has not yet reached me, I think the news it contains, if taken in connection with Mr. Stephen's despatch No. 373 of the 16th instant, is sufficiently important to be forwarded to your Lordship by to-day's messenger:—

"In reference to my despatch No. 187 of the 17th instant, which will reach you by to-morrow evening's mail, all Bulgarian women and children recently expelled from Kuprul will be sent back to their homes, but adult males mistrusted by authorities are not to return for the present. All the Greek families expelled from Carafaria have also been allowed to return to their homes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 280.

M. Coumoundouros to M. Contostavlos.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Contostavlos, December 31.)

E
(Télégraphique.)
Athènes, le 30 *Décembre,* 1880.

VOUS communique ci-dessous télégramme que je viens d'adresser M. Braïla, et vous prie faire de votre côté toute demarche que vous croiriez nécessaire pour obvier éventualité dont il s'agit:—

"M. Coundouriotis apprend que Gouvernement Français se proposerait adresser Puissances Circulaire soutenant que décision Conférence Berlin n'est pas définitive, que par conséquent est susceptible des modifications. Vous prions rechercher ce qu'il y a de vrai dans cette nouvelle. Je crois superflu m'appésantir sur résultats fâcheux de pareille démarche Gouvernement Français, car Protocole prouve absolument le contraire, ainsi que note collective Puissances annonçant au Gouvernement Royal décision unanime

des Six Grandes Puissances concernant le tracé de la nouvelle ligne-frontière entre Grèce et Turquie. Examinez nouvelle que je vous donne si est exacte. En tel cas tâchez prévenir pareil projet Gouvernement Français. Impression ici en serait très-fâcheuse. La Grèce regarde décision Conférence de Berlin absolument inaltérable et décisive.

"Veuillez me télégraphier résultat."

No. 281.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 400.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, December 30, 1880.

THE Representatives of the Great Powers appear all to have received instructions to support French proposal of arbitration. I believe German and Austrian have acted. Russian and Italian will not till I have received instructions.

I hear secretly at the Porte that the proposal is sure to be rejected.

I have not received telegram No. 831.

No. 282.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 676.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, December 31, 1880, 2·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, I have to instruct you to call the attention of the French Government to the inconvenience of this delay.

No. 283.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1617. Extender.)
Foreign Office, December 31, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Captain Sale's statement, the purport of which I have already communicated to your Excellency, that the French Commissioner for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontier had stopped at Trieste, and that the Italian Commissioner, having waited a fortnight for his French colleague, had gone to Rome. I have to request that your Excellency will call the attention of the French Government to the inconvenience resulting from this delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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